United Nations A/56/780

General Assembly

Distr.: General
18 January 2002

Original: English

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 125
Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Letter dated 17 January 2002 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly

1. At present 25 Member States are in arrears under the terms of Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations, which states as follows:

> "A Member of the United Nations which is in arrears in the payment of its financial contributions to the Organization shall have no vote in the General Assembly if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding two full years. The General Assembly may, nevertheless, permit such a Member to vote if it is satisfied that the failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the control of the Member."

2. The minimum payments necessary to reduce the amounts owed by those Member States on their contributions so that they remain below the gross amount assessed for the preceding two full years (2000 and 2001) are as follows:

Member States	*Minimum payment (United States dollars)*
Afghanistan	4 600.00
Armenia	124 000.00
Burundi[a]	47 000.00
Cape Verde	24 500.00
Central African Republic	297 800.00
Chad	11 700.00
Comoros[a]	721 400.00
Democratic Republic of the Congo	67 500.00
Dominica	11 700.00
Georgia[a]	6 744 700.00
Guinea-Bissau	436 600.00
Haiti	3 100.00
Iraq	12 399 800.00

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Member States	*Minimum payment (United States dollars)*
Kyrgyzstan	204 900.00
Liberia	1 068 200.00
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	661 000.00
Mauritania	11 700.00
Niger	327 500.00
Republic of Moldova[a]	2 902 200.00
Sao Tome and Principe	567 000.00
Seychelles	2 400.00
Somalia	968 300.00
Tajikistan	1 952 500.00
Uzbekistan	1 377 300.00
Vanuatu	6 700.00

[a] By its decision 55/473 C of 25 July 2001, the General Assembly decided that Burundi, the Comoros, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova would be permitted to vote in the Assembly until 30 June 2002.

(*Signed*) Kofi **Annan**
Secretary-General

United Nations A/56/780/Add.1

General Assembly

Distr.: General
30 January 2002

Original: English

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 125
Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Letter dated 30 January 2002 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly

Further to my letter dated 17 January 2002 (A/56/780), I have the honour to inform you that Armenia has made the necessary payment to reduce its arrears below the amount specified in Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations.

(*Signed*) Kofi **Annan**
Secretary-General

02-23573 (E) 300102

United Nations A/56/780/Add.2

General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 February 2002

Original: English

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 125
Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Letter dated 13 February 2002 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly

Further to my letters dated 17 and 30 January 2002 (A/56/780 and Add.1), I have the honour to inform you that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has made the necessary payment to reduce its arrears below the amount specified in Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations.

(*Signed*) Kofi **Annan**
Secretary-General

02-25303 (E) 140202

United Nations A/56/781–S/2002/86

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
18 January 2002

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 166
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

Letter dated 18 January 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to draw your attention to the latest act of Palestinian terrorism directed against Israel.

Yesterday, a Palestinian gunman walked into a crowded reception hall in the city of Hadera in northern Israel and opened fire with a semi-automatic rifle, killing six people and wounding more than thirty, four of them critically. At the time of the incident, scores of children and adults had gathered in the hall for a bat mitzvah party, after the traditional Jewish service to mark the transition of a girl to womanhood. The gunman was killed by the Israeli police. The Al-Aqsa Martyr Brigades, a group linked to Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, claimed responsibility for the attack.

Today's attack represents the latest incident in the continuing campaign of Palestinian terrorism directed against Israeli civilians. Previous attacks have been detailed in my letters dated 16 January 2002 (A/56/774-S/2002/73), 11 January 2002 (A/56/771-S/2002/47), 4 January 2002 (A/56/766-S/2002/25), 13 December 2001 (A/56/706-S/2001/1198), 4 December 2001 (A/56/678-S/2001/1150), 30 November 2001 (A/56/670-S/2001/1141), 27 November 2001 (A/56/663-S/2001/1121), 12 November 2001 (A/56/617-S/2001/1071), 5 November 2001 (A/56/604-S/2001/1048), 24 October 2001 (A/56/506-S/2001/1011), 19 October 2001 (A/56/492-S/2001/990), 17 October 2001 (A/56/483-S/2001/975), 8 October 2001 (A/56/450-S/2001/948), 5 October 2001 (A/56/444-S/2001/943), 3 October 2001 (A/56/438-S/2001/938), 24 September 2001 (A/56/406-S/2001/907), 20 September 2001 (A/56/386-S/2001/892), 17 September 2001 (A/56/367-S/2001/875), 7 September 2001 (A/56/346-S/2001/858), 4 September 2001 (A/56/331-S/2001/840), 30 August 2001 (A/56/325-S/2001/834), 27 August 2001 (A/56/324-S/2001/825), 13 August 2001 (A/56/294-S/2001/787), 9 August 2001 (A/56/286-S/2001/780), 8 August 2001 (A/56/280-S/2001/775), 6 August 2001 (A/56/272-S/2001/768), 27 July 2001 (A/56/225-S/2001/743), 26 July 2001 (A/56/223-S/2001/737), 17 July 2001 (A/56/201-S/2001/706), 13 July 2001 (A/56/184-S/2001/696), 3 July 2001

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(A/56/138-S/2001/662), 2 July 2001 (A/56/131-S/2001/656), 21 June 2001 (A/56/119-S/2001/619), 19 June 2001 (A/56/98-S/2001/611), 18 June 2001 (A/56/97-S/2001/604), 13 June 2001 (A/56/92-S/2001/585), 11 June 2001 (A/56/91-S/2001/580), 4 June 2001 (A/56/85-S/2001/555), 30 May 2001 (A/56/81-S/2001/540), 25 May 2001 (A/56/80-S/2001/524), 18 May 2001 (A/56/78-S/2001/506), 11 May 2001 (A/56/72-S/2001/473), 9 May 2001 (A/56/69-S/2001/459), 1 May 2001 (A/55/924-S/2001/435), 23 April 2001 (A/55/910-S/2001/396), 16 April 2001 (A/55/901-S/2001/364), 28 March 2001 (A/55/863-S/2001/291), 27 March 2001 (A/55/860-S/2001/280), 26 March 2001 (A/55/858-S/2001/278), 19 March 2001 (A/55/842-S/2001/244), 5 March 2001 (A/55/821-S/2001/193), 2 March 2001 (A/55/819-S/2001/187), 14 February 2001 (A/55/787-S/2001/137), 13 February 2001 (A/55/781-S/2001/132), 2 February 2001 (A/55/762-S/2001/103), 25 January 2001 (A/55/748-S/2001/81), 23 January 2001 (A/55/742-S/2001/71), 28 December 2000 (A/55/719-S/2000/1252), 22 November 2000 (A/55/641-S/2000/1114), 20 November 2000 (A/55/634-S/2000/1108) and 2 November 2000 (A/55/540-S/2000/1065).

We hold Chairman Arafat and the Palestinian Authority responsible for yesterday's attack in the light of their continuing role in supporting and perpetrating terrorist attacks against Israel and their persistent refusal to take the necessary action against terrorist organizations. Chairman Arafat and the Palestinian leadership continue their duplicitous tactics, whereby they call for an end to violence and occasionally even condemn violence when it occurs, while continuing to actively support and harbour terrorists. It should be emphasized that the terrorist attack yesterday was perpetrated by a group linked to Mr. Arafat's Fatah movement.

The continuation of terrorism against Israel emanating from the territories of the Palestinian Authority constitutes the greatest obstacle to the resumption of a negotiated political process. Such a process, as the parties themselves have agreed, is the only possible and acceptable way to address the needs and aspirations of both sides. Israel calls on the international community, in the context of its global campaign against terrorism, to exert maximum and unrelenting pressure on the Palestinian leadership to fulfil its obligations to fight terrorism and to ensure its compliance with international norms.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 166, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yehuda **Lancry**
Permanent Representative

Contents

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	Introduction	1–5	3
II.	Implementation of the budget	6–10	3
III.	Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001	11–13	4
IV.	Actions to be taken by the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session	14	5
Annexes			
I.	Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001: summary statement		7
II.	Supplementary information on significant variances		9
III.	Planned and actual deployment of military and civilian personnel for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001		18
IV.	Apportionment and expenditure for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001		20

I. Introduction

1. The Security Council, in its resolution 186 (1964) of 4 March 1964 established the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). From its inception until 15 June 1993, the costs of the Force were financed by troop-contributing countries, by the Government of Cyprus and by voluntary contributions to UNFICYP (see article 19 of the Agreement concerning the Status of the Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus).[1]

2. In its resolution 47/236 of 14 September 1993, the General Assembly decided that, commencing 16 June 1993, the costs of the Force that were not covered by voluntary contributions should be treated as expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter.

3. The Security Council extended the mandate of the Force in subsequent resolutions, the most recent of which was resolution 1384 (2001) of 14 December 2001, by which the Council extended the mandate to 15 June 2002.

4. The budget for the maintenance of UNFICYP for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 was set out in the report of the Secretary-General dated 28 January 2000 (A/54/729) and amounted to $41,039,800 gross ($39,374,200 net). The cost estimates provided for the maintenance of the Force at an authorized strength of 1,230 contingent personnel and 35 civilian police monitors, supported by 230 (44 international and 186 local staff) civilian staff.

5. The General Assembly, by its resolution 54/270 of 15 June 2000, appropriated an amount of $43,422,065 gross ($41,404,128 net) for the maintenance of UNFICYP for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001, inclusive of an amount of $2,060,180 gross ($1,743,344 net) for the support account for peacekeeping operations, and the amount of $322,085 gross ($286,584 net) for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy. The appropriated amount also reflected the fact that the Government of Cyprus provides one third of the cost of the Force ($13,801,375) and the Government of Greece provides $6,500,000 through voluntary contributions. An amount of $23,120,690 gross ($21,102,753 net) was assessed on Member States for the period.

II. Implementation of the budget

6. Information on the operations of UNFICYP during the reporting period is contained in the reports of the Secretary-General to the Security Council dated 1 December 2000 (S/2000/1138), 30 May 2001 (S/2001/534) and 30 November 2001 (S/2001/1122).

7. As part of its continuing efforts to improve the management of its resources, the UNFICYP administration launched a number of new initiatives and expanded ongoing cost-saving measures to ensure that the mission is managed with a maximum of economy and efficiency.

8. Obsolete computers were replaced to comply with United Nations standards for information technology. Improved management of the rations supply system and

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 558, No. 7187.

more favourable prices obtained for fresh rations as a result of competitive bidding exercises resulted in significant savings.

9. The mission's outsourcing programme, which had started with the outsourcing of janitorial services in the United Nations Protected Area in April 1999 and the subsequent outsourcing of catering services at mission headquarters in October 1999 and janitorial services in all sectors and catering services in Sector 2 in April 2000, was expanded to include catering services in Sectors 1 and 4 in April 2001. As a result, 39 local staff posts were abolished in July 2000 and there was a further reduction of 42 local staff posts in April 2001. In total, 110 local staff posts have been abolished since April 1999 as a result of outsourcing of janitorial and catering services for the mission.

10. Other cost savings initiatives included local arrangements for the commercial travel of military and civilian police personnel travelling to UNFICYP and open-ended contracts for the procurement of equipment and "just in time" open-ended contracts for the purchase of various supplies and office furniture, which resulted in further savings for the mission. Similarly, the implementation of procurement planning resulted in improvements in the procurement process, ensuring that requirements were forecasted, action was implemented in a timely manner and the goods and services were procured in an efficient and the least costly manner. UNFICYP continued to enlarge its vendor roster and advertised all requirements over $20,000 publicly in newspapers and on the UNFICYP web site. The mission also made efforts to re-bid service contracts, which resulted in cost reductions and improvements in the quality of the services rendered.

III. Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001

11. Table 1 below indicates the appropriation of $43,422,065 gross ($41,404,128 net) for the maintenance of UNFICYP for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001. Expenditures amounted to $42,360,400 gross ($40,445,800 net) inclusive of $12,300,300 in unliquidated obligations. The resulting unencumbered balance of $1,061,700 gross ($958,400 net) represents in gross terms approximately 2.5 per cent of the amount appropriated.

12. Annex I to the present report contains the financial performance information for the reporting period by budget line. Column 1 of the annex reflects the apportionment of the resources provided to UNFICYP during the period under review pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/270. The expenditures recorded for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 are shown in column 3 by budget line item. Variances between the apportionment of resources by budget line item and the actual expenditures are shown in column 4.

13. Supplementary information on significant variances in the financial performance report is presented in annex II. The planned and actual deployment of military and civilian personnel for the reporting period is contained in annex III. Annex IV contains a chart showing the apportionment and expenditure for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001.

Table 1
Apportionment and expenditure
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category of expenditure	*Apportionment*	*Expenditure*[a]	*Variance*
Military personnel	22 456.7	22 150.2	306.5
Civilian personnel	9 341.1	8 318.4	1 022.7
Operational requirements	7 537.2	7 887.2	(350.0)
Other programmes	39.3	60.1	(20.8)
United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi	286.6	286.6	-
Support account for peacekeeping operations	1 743.3	1 743.3	-
Staff assessment	2 017.9	1 914.7	103.3
Gross requirements	**43 422.1**	**42 360.4**	**1 061.7**
Income from staff assessment	(2 017.9)	(1 914.7)	(103.3)
Net requirements	**41 404.2**	**40 445.8**	**958.4**
Voluntary contributions in kind (budgeted)	-	-	-
Voluntary contributions in kind (non-budgeted)	-	-	-
Total resources	**43 422.1**	**42 360.4**	**1 061.7**

[a] Includes an amount of $12,300,300 in unliquidated obligations.

Table 2
Authorized staffing, incumbency and vacancy rates for military and civilian personnel for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001

Personnel category	*Authorized strength*	*Actual strength (average)*	*Vacancy rate (percentage)*
Military observers	-	-	-
Military contingents	1 230	1 226	-
Civilian police	35	34	3
International staff	44	41	8
National officers	-	-	-
Local staff	186	145	22
United Nations Volunteers	-	-	-

IV. Actions to be taken by the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session

14. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of UNFICYP are as follows:

(a) To decide on the treatment of the unencumbered balance of $1,061,700 gross ($958,400 net) for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001;

(b) To decide on the treatment of other income for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 amounting in total to $1,680,000, comprising interest income ($804,000), other/miscellaneous income ($62,000) and savings on or cancellation of prior period obligations including prior period adjustments ($814,000).

Annex I

Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001: summary statement

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category of expenditure		*(1)* *Apportionment*[a]	*(2)* *Non-recurrent expenditures*	*(3)* *Total expenditures (inclusive of non-recurrent expenditures)*	*(4) = (1 - 3)* *Variance*
I.	**Military personnel**				
	1. Military observers	-	-	-	-
	2. Military contingents	21 279.8	-	20 973.3	306.5
	3. Other requirements pertaining to military personnel				
	(a) Contingent-owned equipment	976.9	-	976.9	-
	(b) Self-sustainment	-	-	-	-
	(c) Death and disability compensation	200.0	-	200.0	-
	Subtotal, line 3	1 176.9	-	1 176.9	-
	Total, category I	**22 456.7**	**-**	**22 150.2**	**306.5**
II.	**Civilian personnel**				
	1. Civilian police	240.6	-	213.6	27.0
	2. International and local staff	9 100.5	-	8 104.8	995.7
	3. United Nations Volunteers	-	-	-	-
	4. Government-provided personnel	-	-	-	-
	5. Civilian electoral observers	-	-	-	-
	Total, category II	**9 341.1**	**-**	**8 318.4**	**1 022.7**
III.	**Operational requirements**				
	1. Premises/accommodation	1 253.6	341.8	1 384.3	(130.7)
	2. Infrastructure repairs	219.0	-	171.5	47.5
	3. Transport operations	1 462.4	162.9	1 491.5	(29.1)
	4. Air operations	1 214.1	-	1 271.5	(57.4)
	5. Naval operations	-	-	-	-
	6. Communications	864.5	167.0	549.4	315.1
	7. Other equipment	656.8	809.8	976.3	(319.5)
	8. Supplies and services	1 784.8	-	2 019.3	(234.5)
	9. Air and surface freight				
	(a) Transport of contingent-owned equipment	-	-	-	-
	(b) Commercial freight and cartage	82.0	-	23.5	58.5
	Subtotal, line 9	82.0	-	23.5	58.5
	Total, category III	**7 537.2**	**1 481.4**	**7 887.2**	**(350.0)**

Category of expenditure	(1) Apportionment[a]	(2) Non-recurrent expenditures	(3) Total expenditures (inclusive of non-recurrent expenditures)	(4) = (1 - 3) Variance
IV. Other programmes				
1. Election-related supplies and services	-	-	-	-
2. Public information programmes	4.8	4.8	4.8	-
3. Training programmes	34.5	-	55.3	(20.8)
4. Mine-clearing programmes	-	-	-	-
5. Assistance for disarmament and demobilization	-	-	-	-
Total, category IV	**39.3**	**4.8**	**60.1**	**(20.8)**
V. United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi	**286.6**	**-**	**286.6**	**-**
VI. Support account for peacekeeping operations	**1 743.3**	**-**	**1 743.3**	**-**
VII. Staff assessment	**2 017.9**	**-**	**1 914.7**	**103.3**
Gross requirements, categories I-VII	**43 422.1**	**1 486.2**	**42 360.4**	**1 061.7**
VIII. Income from staff assessment	**(2 017.9)**	**-**	**(1 914.7)**	**(103.3)**
Net requirements, categories I-VIII	**41 404.2**	**1 486.2**	**40 445.8**	**958.4**
IX. Voluntary contributions in kind (budgeted)	-	-	-	-
X. Voluntary contributions in kind (non-budgeted)	-	-	-	-
Total	**43 422.1**	**1 486.2**	**42 360.4**	**1 061.7**
				Amount
XI. Other income/adjustments				
Interest income				804.0
Other/miscellaneous income				62.0
Voluntary contributions in cash				-
Prior period adjustments				(6.0)
Savings on, or cancellation of prior period obligations				820.0
Total, category XI				**1 680.0**

[a] Based on appropriation provided by General Assembly resolution 54/270.

Annex II

Supplementary information on significant variances

Military personnel

Apportionment: $22,456,700; expenditure: $22,150,200; variance: $306,500

1. The unutilized balance of $306,500 under this heading was largely attributable to enhanced management and control of the ration supply and lower contract prices for fresh rations (fresh fruits, vegetables, dairy products, eggs and bread) than budgeted, which resulted in savings of $420,400. These and other savings under welfare ($10,800) were offset by higher actual requirements under emplacement, rotation and repatriation of troops ($124,700) owing to the withdrawal of the Austrian, Dutch and Slovenian contingents and to travel of military personnel on assignment beyond six months and whose repatriation fell outside normal contingent rotations.

Civilian personnel

Apportionment: $9,341,100; expenditure: $8,318,400; variance: $1,022,700

Civilian police

Apportionment: $240,600; expenditure: $213,600; variance: $27,000

2. More favourable prices for airfares than budgeted and an average vacancy rate of 3 per cent during the period as a result of a reduction in the number of Australian civilian police monitors from 20 to 15 and a corresponding but staggered increase in the number of civilian police monitors provided by Ireland contributed to savings of $27,000 under this heading.

International and local staff

Apportionment: $9,100,500; expenditure: $8,104,800; variance: $995,700

3. Additional requirements of $72,200 were required to cover a 5.1 per cent salary increase for international staff, effective 1 March 2001, and payment of accrued annual leave for three UNFICYP Field Service staff members who retired during the period.

4. While the local staffing requirements were reduced by 39 posts from 186 to 147 posts as a result of the mission's outsourcing activities, contributing to an average vacancy rate of 22 per cent, the local salary scale was increased by 7.3 percent, thus reducing the savings to $812,700 under this heading.

5. Savings of $12,900 under overtime occurred as a result of the outsourcing of catering services and the mission's policy to provide time off in lieu of monetary compensation.

6. Similarly, the reduction in the local staff owing to the outsourcing of janitorial services in all sectors and catering services in Sector 2 in April 2000 and the

subsequent abolition of 39 local staff posts in July 2000 resulted in savings of $123,800 under common staff costs.

7. The withdrawal of the Austrian and Slovenian contingents, the subsequent deployment of the Slovak contingent and the UNFICYP job classification exercise that necessitated the travel by an inventory assistant to support UNFICYP staff with the FACS database system resulted in unbudgeted expenditures under official travel of staff. Since the overall number of trips undertaken was lower than estimated and favourable airfares were obtained for the travel in question, savings of $114,800 were recorded under this heading.

8. During the period under review, a total of two UNFICYP personnel were on short-term loans to new missions or other operations as shown below:

Table 1

Deployed to	*Number of staff*
United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea	1
United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo	1
Total	**2**

Operational requirements

Apportionment: $7,537,200; expenditure: $7,887,200; variance: ($350,000)

9. The over-expenditure of $350,000 was due to additional requirements under premises/accommodation ($130,700), transport operations ($29,100), air operations ($57,400), other equipment ($319,500) and supplies and services ($234,500), partially offset by savings under infrastructure repairs ($47,500), communications ($315,100) and air and surface freight ($58,500).

Premises/accommodation

Apportionment: $1,253,600; expenditure: $1,384,300; variance: ($130,700)

10. The additional requirements of $130,700 under this heading were mainly due to the restrictions in movement imposed on UNFICYP personnel in the north since June 2000, which resulted in overcrowding in Camp San Martin (Sector 1), necessitating the unbudgeted purchase of prefabricated accommodation units for this camp ($83,600), and increased utility requirements owing to higher electricity prices than budgeted, higher consumption of electricity owing to the increase in the number of air conditioners and electrical heaters in operation, as well as increased costs for generator fuel, particularly in the north (106,500). These additional requirements were partly offset by savings of $49,200 under maintenance services as a result of the consolidation of offices, accommodation and ancillary facilities within the United Nations Protected Area.

Infrastructure repairs

Apportionment: $219,000; expenditure: $171,500; variance: $47,500

11. Favourable prices for materials combined with reduced requirements to hire engineering equipment for the patrol track as a result of the transfer of such equipment from the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, resulted in savings of $40,800 under this heading. A provision of $29,000 had been made for the repair of bridges. However, certain required materials were not available for procurement, resulting in savings of $6,700 under this heading.

Transport operations

Apportionment: $1,462,400; expenditure: $1,491,500; variance: ($29,100)

12. An additional amount of $68,300 was required under purchase of vehicles. While provision had been made for the replacement of one United Nations-owned recovery truck that was written off owing to age and condition, there were immediate operational requirements to purchase two 4x4 ambulances for the mission, one low bed trailer for the movement of engineering equipment for use on the patrol track in the buffer zone as well as the transfer of heavy engineering equipment from the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy.

13. The additional requirement of $2,300 under workshop and test equipment was due to the need to procure new equipment such as hand drills, an arc welder, ladders, a pipe threading kit, hole saws, pipe cutters and screwdriver bit sets for the Slovak contingent engineers.

14. Savings of $41,600 under spare parts, repairs and maintenance were the result of reduced costs for accident repairs for UNFICYP commercially hired vehicles and the non-utilization of funds budgeted for spare parts for contingent-owned vehicles, as these are covered by the wet lease arrangement under the memorandum of understanding still to be concluded between UNFICYP and troop contributors. Those savings were offset by higher requirements for spare parts for United Nations-owned vehicles because of the increased vehicle establishment from 66 to 75 with the acquisition of the vehicles mentioned in paragraph 11 above and the costly repairs and maintenance thereof.

15. While there was a cost reduction in local third party liability insurance as a result of favourable rates obtained through competitive bidding, the authorities in the north have obliged UNFICYP since June 2000 to insure all its vehicles travelling to the north via the Ledra Palace in Nicosia, resulting in additional requirements of $9,200 under this heading.

Air operations

Apportionment: $1,214,100; expenditure: $1,271,500; variance: ($57,400)

16. The additional requirement of $89,500 to cover unbudgeted positioning/depositioning costs for the Bell 212 helicopter in January 2001 was partially offset by savings under hire/charter costs ($9,400) and aviation fuel and lubricants ($7,600) as the number of flying hours for both helicopters were less than budgeted and actual fuel consumption for the Hughes helicopter was 95 litres per

hour and for the Bell helicopter was 303 litres per hour compared to the budget estimates of 90 and 380 litres, respectively. Other offsetting savings were realized under liability and war-risk insurance ($15,100) owing to a decrease in aircraft liability insurance as a result of the increase in the number of peacekeeping missions worldwide.

Communications

Apportionment: $864,500; expenditure: $549,400; variance: $315,100

17. Savings of $84,200 under communications equipment were the result of the mission's conscious cost-saving efforts. While a provision of $69,000 had been made in the budget for the purchase of an Optaphone rural telephone system, the mission opted for a cheaper version utilizing 15 GSM cellular telephones instead. Similarly, the mission also purchased six medium volume digital copy machines under office equipment, inclusive of facsimile facilities, during the period in lieu of the planned replacement of 16 facsimile machines, which thus became unnecessary, resulting in savings to the Organization.

18. The implementation of open-ended contracts for communications spare parts during the period whereby spare parts and supplies are procured on an as-needed basis, thus reducing the necessity to stockpile items, resulted in savings of $68,300 under spare parts and supplies.

19. While provision had been made for the purchase of workshop and test equipment, priority was given to replacing obsolete essential units such as workbenches. Other test equipment scheduled for replacement but still in serviceable condition was adequately maintained and subsequently did not require replacement, resulting in savings of $26,200 under this heading.

20. The installation of the automated Ericsson telephone exchange systems at mission headquarters and in Sector 1, which enables authorized staff to access the United Nations satellite network from any local mobile or fixed telephone for calls to United Nations Headquarters and other United Nations missions at a cost similar to that of a local telephone call, and lower international calling rates charged by the Cyprus Telecommunications Authority effective January 2001, resulted in savings of $136,400 under commercial communications.

Other equipment

Apportionment: $656,800; expenditure: $976,300; variance: ($319,500)

21. The additional amount was primarily required for the purchase of urgently needed data-processing equipment ($45,300), observation equipment ($126,000), medical and dental equipment ($11,800), accommodation equipment ($37,900) and miscellaneous equipment ($93,500) and other equipment, the details of which are described in paragraphs below.

22. The additional requirement of $45,300 under data-processing equipment was due to the purchase of urgently required equipment for the mission: one laptop and two desktop computers for the UNFICYP warehouse and the UNFICYP headquarters operations branch, one desktop computer for the UNFICYP telephone billing system, which receives invoicing data from the Cyprus Telecommunications

Authority, the UNFICYP and United Nations Headquarters exchanges, two laptop computers to replace two Dutch contingent-owned computers assigned to the Force Military Police Unit, which were withdrawn from the mission in June 2001 with the Dutch contingent, and the replacement of 12 obsolete laser printers. In addition, it was necessary to procure a firewall for the UNFICYP Internet server to upgrade the security of the mission's network and a server rack for the UNFICYP information technology server room to accommodate the newly acquired servers and firewall unit, which are rack mountable, as well as to replace 25 obsolete uninterrupted power supplies that broke down during the period.

23. While provision had been made for the replacement of night observation devices, it was necessary to replace obsolete equipment by procuring 25 long-range waterproof binoculars with a minimum field of view of three degrees and supplied with a pedestal tripod for use at various observation posts within the buffer zone to meet immediate operational requirements, resulting in an additional requirement of $126,000 under observation equipment.

24. An additional amount of $11,800 was required under medical and dental equipment for the purchase of seven vacuum mattresses for the UNFICYP medical centres for the transportation of casualties with fractures, the urgent replacement of a defibrillator in the United Nations Protected Area Medical Centre and of an electrocardiogram machine in the Sector 2 Medical Centre.

25. There were additional requirements of $37,900 under accommodation equipment during the period to cover the cost of furniture for the newly renovated accommodation quarters of the Mobile Force Reserve at UNFICYP headquarters, for work tables, storage racks and wall-mounted cupboards for recently renovated small kitchens at 14 of the 19 observation posts in the buffer zone that rely on self-help catering and where all meals are prepared by military personnel manning the observation posts, for 20 bunk beds for initial use by the Slovak contingent engineers and for 50 camp beds to accommodate Austrian military personnel who came to the mission to supervise the withdrawal of Austrian contingent-owned equipment.

26. Provision had been made for four small walk-in refrigeration units for observation posts and camps to provide adequate food storage facilities. During the period, two walk-in freezers and one cooler room were purchased for the newly refurbished kitchens at Camp San Martin (Sector 1) and Camp Izay (Sector 2) at higher costs than budgeted. As a result of the additional expenditure of $3,100 under this heading, the procurement of the fourth refrigeration unit for observation post 66 in Sector 2 had to be postponed.

27. Unbudgeted requirements were incurred under miscellaneous equipment ($93,500). During the period, it was necessary to install 53 additional electronic vehicle monitoring devices (carlogs) in the commercially-hired vehicles ($32,800) and to procure an electronic pigeon scaring device for the United Nations flight hangar to ward off pigeons, which are considered a safety hazard, particularly during maintenance of the helicopters ($6,700), a hydraulic road breaker for a United Nations-owned excavator required for numerous tasks in connection with the repairs on the patrol track ($8,900), 47 air conditioners for observation posts ($31,600), 18 strimmers for ground maintenance work in Sectors 1, 2 and 4 ($4,000) and two additional video projectors ($9,500).

28. Savings of $1,700 were realized under water-purification equipment, as the items were obtained at lower prices than budgeted.

Supplies and services

Apportionment: $1,784,800; expenditure: $2,019,300; variance: ($234,500)

29. Provision of $49,900 had been made to cover the costs of the Board of Auditors for its audit of the mission field and headquarters accounts. Owing to the fact that the obligation inadvertently was not liquidated when disbursement was made to the Board of Auditors, the expenditures recorded under this heading were overstated by $49,900. The obligation has since been fully liquidated.

30. In line with provisions set out in General Assembly resolution 54/270 to reduce the number of local staff, the mission continued its efforts to outsource general and support services in the mission, resulting in additional requirements of $298,500 under contractual services. Contracts for catering services in Sector 2 and janitorial services for all three sectors commenced in April 2000 and catering services contacts for Sectors 1 and 4 were implemented in April 2001, which resulted in additional requirements of $497,600. The mission also entered into three new contracts: for the cleaning of roads at mission headquarters and the car park at the Ledra Palace Hotel, Sector 2, effective October 2000 ($1,700); for the provision of unskilled labour for moving furniture, unloading supplies and similar services ($12,700); and for the maintenance of fire extinguishers throughout the mission ($7,100). In addition, the requirements for conservancy services had been underestimated in the budget by $12,400.

31. These additional requirements were partially offset by savings under laundry and dry cleaning services ($39,200), owing to the implementation of a new contact at a lower cost than the previous one, effective September 2000, under tailoring services ($12,400), since these services for military personnel in the United Nations Protected Area and Sector 1 were provided by local support services staff, and haircutting, since military personnel did not utilize their full entitlement ($39,700). Similarly, the provisions for deep cleaning of catering areas ($60,000) and chimney cleaning ($1,400) were not utilized. Deep cleaning of catering services is included in the relevant catering contracts. The contract for ground maintenance in the United Nations Protected Area was only implemented effective 1 March 2001 and together with a favourable contract price received through a competitive bidding exercise resulted in additional savings ($68,400). Other offsetting savings of $11,900 were realized.

32. As a result of lower costs than budgeted for the renewal of software licences for the mission, an unutilized balance of $3,200 was recorded under the heading for data-processing services.

33. In connection with an outbreak of salmonella in August 2000, which resulted in nine military personnel being hospitalized, and with an increase in the number of military personnel undergoing surgery and referred for physiotherapy treatment against the figure projected for the period, an additional amount of $22,200 was required under medical treatment and services.

34. While provision of $30,000 had been made to cover third-party claims for loss or damage to property and, legal and assessors fees, only minor incidents took place

during the period, for which the mission received three claims requesting reimbursement for damages caused to overhead cables by an UNFICYP vehicle, for loss of plastic boxes belonging to the former fresh fruit and vegetable contractor and for damage caused to the barley crop by UNFICYP vehicles which made a detour through the claimant's fields to access an observation post in Sector 4 because the patrol track was inaccessible owing to bad weather. The settlement of these claims amounted to $2,800, resulting in an unutilized balance of $27,200 under this heading.

35. As a result of a reduction in the number of official functions held for officials because of the prevailing political climate and the restrictions of movement imposed during the period combined with efficient management of mission resources, an unutilized balance of $2,100 was recorded under the heading for official hospitality.

36. Additional requirements of $58,700 required under miscellaneous other services were primarily due to loss on exchange ($75,600), for advertisements in local newspapers for outsourcing and other contracts in the north and south of the island ($10,600), for electrical consultancy services to bring the electrical reticulation system within mission headquarters in line with the specifications of the Electricity Authority of Cyprus ($6,200), for electrical consultancy fees for design improvements at observation posts ($6,400) and other unforeseen miscellaneous services ($2,000). These additional requirements were in part offset by unutilized balances under bi-communal activities, as the United Nations Office for Project Services provided some funds for the United Nations Day event in Cyprus in October 2000 ($3,800), and by lower than expected bank charges ($38,300).

37. As a result of the reorganization of the UNFICYP supply warehouse and the introduction of "just in time" open-ended contracts in March 2001 for the procurement of stationery items on an as-required basis at lower cost, an unutilized balance of $56,200 was recorded under stationery and office supplies.

38. Similarly, the introduction of "just in time" open-ended contracts for medical supplies in May 2001, whereby certain items are procured on an as-needed basis at lower cost and the need for stockpiling drugs and medicines, often with short shelf-life, is substantially reduced, resulted in an unutilized balance of $16,100 under this heading.

39. The implementation of outsourcing contracts for janitorial services in the sectors (April 2000), catering services in Sector 2 (April 2000) and catering services in Sectors 1 and 4 (April 2001), which include contractor-supplied equipment, supplies and consumables, in addition to the "just in time" open-ended contract for the procurement of cleaning materials and equipment for troop accommodation blocks not covered by the aforementioned services contracts, resulted in unutilized resources of $59,400 under sanitation and cleaning materials.

40. A provision of $39,600 had been made under uniform items, flags and decals. Actual requirements were lower than budgeted owing to the utilization of existing stock of these items in the mission, resulting in an unutilized balance of $15,000 under this heading.

41. The unutilized balance of $13,000 under quartermaster and general stores was due to the implementation of "just in time" open-ended contracts for various items, effective March 2001, resulting in requirements procured on an as-needed basis at lower cost.

Air and surface freight

Apportionment: $82,000; expenditure: $23,500; variance: $58,500

42. Initial freight costs were recorded as part of the equipment purchase costs, resulting in savings of $58,500 under air and surface freight.

Training programmes

Apportionment: $34,500; expenditure: $55,300; variance: ($20,800)

43. Additional requirements of $20,800 were necessary to cover unbudgeted training needs for UNFICYP staff to participate in a fire prevention course in Kent, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in March 2001 ($1,400), Reality training at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi for three UNFICYP staff members in February 2001 ($5,300), attendance at the Overseas Properties Management Information Exchange Network seminar in Rome by the Chief Engineer to ensure an organization-wide team of professionals from each overseas property to communicate regularly and exchange information on best practices, common approaches and policy directives ($2,100) and to cover higher costs than budgeted for training of UNFICYP staff at the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office (IAPSO) procurement training programme in Beirut and Warsaw in October and November 2000, respectively ($5,200). In addition, funds were required to cover increased costs of the electronic data processing and communications training courses at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi ($6,800).

Course	*Expenditure (United States dollars)*	*Number of persons trained*	*Venue*
CISCO systems course	6 000	1	United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi
Domino Doc 2.5A system administration and applications development	2 200	1	United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi
Nissan and Toyota technical course for 4x4 vehicles	3 100	1	United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi
Lotus Notes R.5 system administration and FACS 2000	3 000	1	United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi
UNDP IAPSO procurement training programme	7 300	4	Beirut
UNDP IAPSO procurement training programme	7 900	3	Warsaw
Barrett HF and digital microwave communications course	3 300	1	United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi
Sun Systems training	1 100	2	Nicosia
Reality training	5 300	3	United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi

Course	*Expenditure (United States dollars)*	*Number of persons trained*	*Venue*
Fire prevention course	1 400	1	Kent, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Management workshops for chief procurement officers and officers in charge of procurement	4 000	3	Nicosia
Communications planning meeting	1 700	1	United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi
Information technology planning meeting	1 700	1	United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi
Management workshop	3 400	2	United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi
Web page design	900	9	Nicosia
AutoCAD 2000	900	4	Nicosia
OPMIEN seminar	2 100	1	Rome
Total	**55 300**	**39**	

Staff assessment

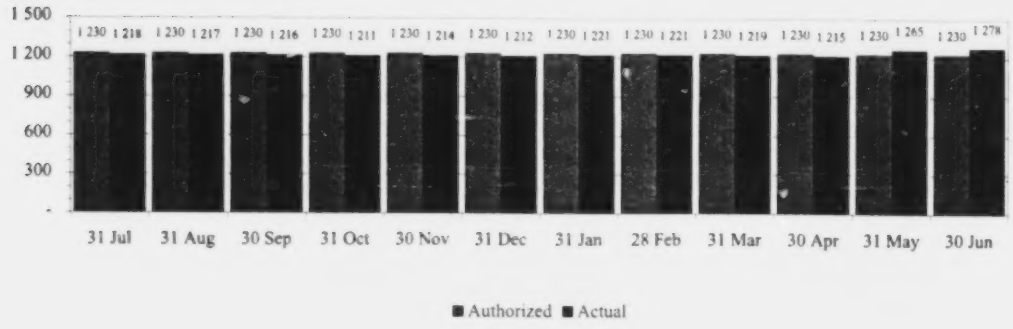
Apportionment: $2,017,900; expenditure: $1,914,700; variance: $103,300

44. The unutilized balance of $103,300 under this heading related mainly to higher than projected vacancy rates for international and local staff during the period under review, primarily as a result of outsourcing of services.

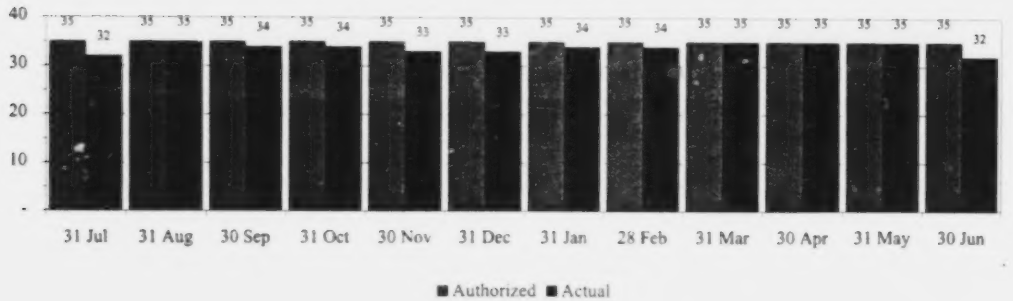
Annex III

Planned and actual deployment of military and civilian personnel for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001

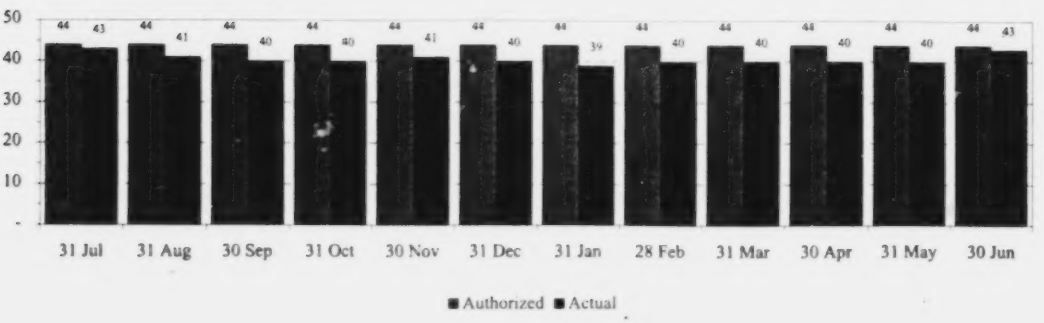
1. Military contingents



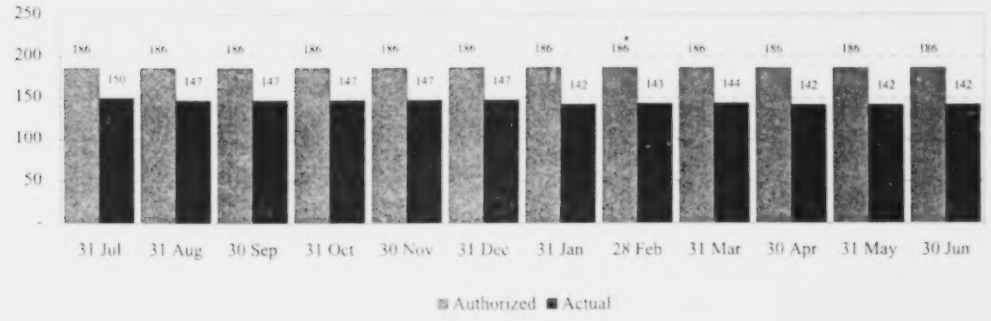
2. Civilian police



3. International staff

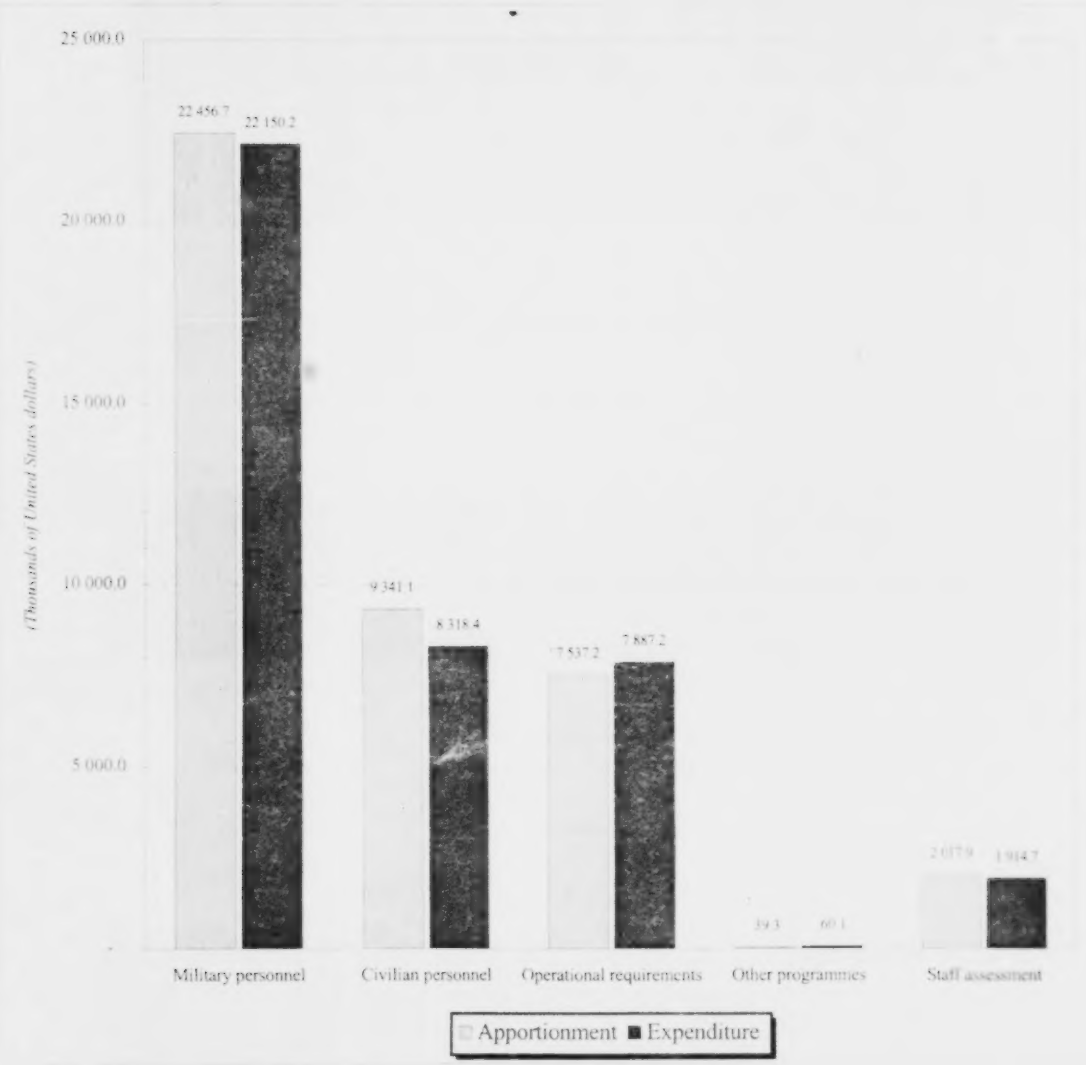


4. Local staff



Annex IV

Apportionment and expenditure for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001



United Nations A/56/783-S/2002/96

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
21 January 2002
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 42
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

Letter dated 21 January 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that there were 75 Israeli violations of Lebanese territory during the month of December 2001, broken down as follows:

1. Fifty-three aerial violations by jet fighters;
2. Twelve violations by aerial reconnaissance aircraft;
3. Four violations by helicopters;
4. Four violations of Lebanese territorial waters by the Israeli navy;
5. Two violations of Lebanese territory on the ground.

The violations that Israel continues to commit against Lebanon in the air, at sea and on the ground are in flagrant violation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978) and of Lebanon's sovereignty and they pose a threat to stability in the region.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sélim **Tadmoury**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

02-22361 (E) 220102 220102

United Nations A/56/784–S/2002/99

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
22 January 2002

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session
Agenda items 24, 26, 27, 29, 41, 42, 49, 58, 59, 60, 61, 74, 76, 95, 96, 97, 98, 105, 106, 107, 108, 112, 113, 115 and 166

Review of the problem of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome in all its aspects

Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children

Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Question of Palestine

The situation in the Middle East

Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters

United Nations reform: measures and proposals

Strengthening of the United Nations system

Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields

General and complete disarmament

Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session

Macroeconomic policy questions

Sectoral policy questions

Sustainable development and international

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

02-22560 (E) 290102

economic cooperation

Environment and sustainable development

Globalization and interdependence

Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

High-level international intergovernmental consideration of financing for development

Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Advancement of women

Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 16 January 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Nepal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the Declaration adopted by the heads of State or Government of the States members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) at the eleventh SAARC Summit held in Kathmandu from 4 to 6 January 2002 (see annex).

I shall be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 24, 26, 27, 29, 41, 42, 49, 58, 59, 60, 61, 74, 76, 95, 96, 97, 98, 105, 106, 107, 108, 112, 113, 115 and 166 of the fifty-sixth session, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Durga Prasad **Bhattarai**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Minister/Deputy Permanent Representative

Annex

Declaration of the Eleventh Summit

The Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Her Excellency Begum Khaleda Zia; the Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Bhutan, His Excellency Lyonpo Khandu Wangchuk; the Prime Minister of the Republic of India, His Excellency Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee; the President of the Republic of Maldives, His Excellency Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom; the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Nepal, Right Honourable Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba; the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, His Excellency General Pervez Musharraf; and the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Her Excellency Mrs. Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga met at the Eleventh Summit meeting of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in Kathmandu, Nepal from 4 to 6 January 2002.

Regional Cooperation

1. The Heads of State or Government reaffirmed their commitment to regional cooperation through SAARC and underscored the importance of annual Summit meetings in charting common strategies for the realization of the objectives and principles set out in the Charter of the Association. Meeting for the first time at the dawn of the new millennium, they solemnly renewed their pledge to strengthen the Association and make it more cohesive, result oriented, and forward looking, by adopting clearly defined programs and effective implementation strategies in line with popular expectations. To give effect to the shared aspirations for a more prosperous South Asia, the Leaders agreed to the vision of a phased and planned process eventually leading to a South Asian Economic Union.

2. The Heads of State or Government stressed that equitable sharing of the benefits of regional cooperation is essential to achieve and maintain a minimum acceptable level of economic and social development in each Member State. To this end, they expressed their commitment to a speedier process of harmonizing their policies and practices and imbibing regional goals and strategies in their national development programs.

3. The Heads of State or Government expressed their firm determination to fully benefit from the wealth of traditional wisdom, creativity and enterprise in the region. They also pledged to enhance transparency and accountability in

governance and to encourage effective participation of the peoples and civil societies in the formulation as well as implementation of the programs of cooperation.

4. Reiterating their resolve to promote South Asian regional identity and to strengthen cooperation at the international level, the Heads of State or Government also reemphasized the need to evolve common positions on issues of shared interest at the international fora.

Cooperation in the Economic Sector

5. The Heads of State or Government agreed to accelerate cooperation in the core areas of trade, finance and investment to realize the goal of an integrated South Asian economy in a step-by-step manner. They expressed their determination to make full use of regional synergy to maximize the benefits of globalisation and liberalization and to minimize their negative impacts on the region. While recognizing that trade and economic expansion is closely inter-linked, the Leaders made a commitment to widen and deepen the scope of regional networks of activities in trade and financial matters.

6. The Heads of State or Government noted with satisfaction the outcomes of the successive meetings of the SAARC Commerce Ministers aimed at enlarging the scope of cooperation in the core areas. They recognised the importance of achieving a free trade area and reaffirmed that the treaty regime for creating a free trade area must incorporate, inter alia, binding timeframes for freeing trade, measures to facilitate trade and provisions to ensure an equitable distribution of benefits of trade to all states, especially for small and least developed countries, including mechanisms for compensation of revenue loss.

7. Recognising the need to move quickly towards a South Asian Free Trade Area, the Heads of State or Government directed the Council of Ministers to finalize the text of the Draft Treaty Framework by the end of 2002. They also directed that in moving towards the goal of SAFTA, the Member States expedite action to remove tariff and non-tariff barriers and structural impediments to free trade. They also instructed to conclude the meeting of the Inter Governmental Group on Trade Liberalization for the Fourth Round of Trade Negotiations under SAPTA as early as possible as per the decision of the Tenth SAARC Summit in Colombo.

8. The Heads of State or Government renewed their commitment to encourage the participation of the private sector and assured their full support for their socially responsible economic initiatives. While welcoming the practice of holding trade fairs in cooperation with the private sector at the regional level, they appreciated the efforts of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry to promote regional economic cooperation in the spirit of public and private sector partnership.

9. The Heads of State or Government also decided to instruct the Secretary-General to facilitate the early finalization of a regionally agreed investment framework to meet investment needs of the SAARC Member States.

10. The Heads of State or Government recognized the immense tourism potential of South Asia and underlined the need to take measures to promote South Asia as a common tourist destination through joint efforts in areas such as upgrading of infrastructure, air linkages, simplification and harmonization of administrative procedures and training and joint marketing.

Poverty Alleviation

11. The Heads of State or Government acknowledged that investment in poverty alleviation programs contributes to social stability, economic progress and overall prosperity. They were of the view that widespread and debilitating poverty continued to be the most formidable developmental challenge for the region. Conscious of the magnitude of poverty in the region, and recalling also the decision of the UN Millennium Summit 2000 to reduce world poverty in half by 2015, and also recalling the commitments made at the five year review of the World Summit for Social Development to reduce poverty through enhanced social mobilization, the Heads of State or Government made a review of the SAARC activities aimed at poverty alleviation and decided to reinvigorate them in the context of the regional and global commitments to poverty reduction.

12. The Heads of State or Government expressed their firm resolve to combat the problem of poverty with a new sense of urgency by actively promoting the synergetic partnership among national governments, international agencies, the private sector, and the civil society. They reaffirmed their pledge to undertake effective and sustained poverty alleviation programs through pro-poor growth strategies and social as well as other policy interventions with specific sectoral targets. The Leaders also agreed to take immediate steps for the effective implementation of the programs for social mobilization and decentralization, and for strengthening institution building and support mechanisms to ensure participation of the poor, both as stake-holder and beneficiary, in governance and the development process.

13. The Heads of State or Government decided to undertake sustained measures to extend rural micro-credit programs with focus on women and the disadvantaged sections of society. They also stressed the need for widening the opportunities for gainful employment. While highlighting the importance of promoting agriculture, indigenous skills and small scale and cottage industries to address the incidence of rural poverty, they decided to enhance cooperation in agricultural research, extension and adoption. They specifically instructed

that the Technical Committees should identify programmes and activities that impact on poverty alleviation. They urged the need to create gainful employment and promote cooperation in vocational training.

14. The Heads of State or Government emphasized the need to promote sharing of the best practices and experiences among the Member States and to this end, instructed the Secretary-General to disseminate such information to the Member States on a regular basis. They directed the Council of Ministers to review, on a continuous basis, the regional poverty profile to be prepared by the Secretary-General with the assistance of the related UN agencies, nodal agencies and independent research institutions specialized in the field.

15. In order to ensure social stability and to protect the vulnerable sections of population from the adverse impacts of globalisation and liberalization, the Heads of State or Government stressed the need to enhance cooperation to create and maintain appropriate safety nets.

16. The Heads of State or Government agreed that a Special Session on poverty alleviation at the Ministerial level should undertake a comprehensive review and evaluation of the status of implementation of poverty eradication policies and programs carried out so far, and to recommend further concrete measures to enhance effective cooperation at the regional level to the Twelfth SAARC Summit. They also directed the Council of Ministers to take necessary steps to fully activate the existing three-tier mechanism for poverty alleviation.

17. The Leaders directed the Council of Ministers to coordinate efforts to integrate poverty alleviation programs into the development strategies of Member States. In this context, they agreed to reconstitute the Independent South Asian Commission on Poverty Alleviation, with Nepal as its Convener and Bangladesh as Co-convenor, for reviewing the progress made in cooperation on poverty alleviation and for suggesting appropriate and effective measures. They instructed the Chairman of the Council of Ministers to seek two nominations from each Member State by end of January 2002 to enable the convening of its first meeting before the proposed Ministerial Meeting on Poverty Alleviation in Pakistan in April 2002.

18. Expressing concern at the region's special vulnerability in the slowdown in world economy and its negative impact on the poor and the marginalized, the Heads of State or Government called for a supportive international environment and an enhanced level of assistance by the international community for poverty alleviation programs in South Asia.

Cooperation in the Social and Cultural Sector

19. The Heads of State or Government reiterated the need for an early finalisation of the SAARC Social Charter and instructed the Inter Governmental Expert Group to expedite their work on the basis of the draft to be submitted by the Secretary-General, as a working paper for its consideration and to complete the draft framework of the Charter as early as possible for consideration at the next meeting of the Council of Ministers. In drawing up the Charter, they also directed the Council of Ministers to include the important areas of poverty eradication, population stabilization, the empowerment of women, youth mobilization, human resources development, the promotion of health and nutrition and the protection of children as decided at the Tenth Summit.

20. The Leaders recognized the debilitating and widespread impact of the HIV/ AIDS, TB and other deadly communicable diseases on the population of South Asia and stressed the need for evolving a regional strategy to combat these diseases. The strategy should include, inter alia, culturally appropriate preventive measures, an affordable treatment regime and should specially target the vulnerable groups. In this regard, they felt that SAARC should collaborate with the international organizations and civil society. They also emphasized that the SAARC Tuberculosis Centre in Kathmandu should play a coordinating role in the related areas.

21. In accordance with the Colombo Declaration, the Heads of State or Government decided to mandate the Meeting of Ministers of Cultural Affairs in Sri Lanka to finalise the details relating to the establishment of the SAARC Cultural Centre including its financing and to submit its report to the next session of the Council of Ministers.

Women and Children

22. The Heads of State or Government welcomed the signing of the SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating the Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution and expressed their collective resolve to treat the trafficking in women and children for commercial sexual exploitation as a criminal offence of a serious nature. They also welcomed the signing of the SAARC Convention on Regional Arrangements for the Promotion of Child Welfare in South Asia and observed that the Convention reflected their commitment to place the child first in the national and regional programs of the Member States. They instructed the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States and other specialised agencies, to present a report on measures for the effective implementation of the Conventions to the next meeting of the Council of Ministers.

23. The Heads of State or Government agreed to establish, on the basis of recommendations of the Regional Task Force responsible for the implementation of the provisions of the SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution, a voluntary fund with contributions from Member States, individuals, and donor countries and agencies for the rehabilitation and reintegration of the victims of trafficking.

24. The Leaders recognized the need to form an autonomous advocacy group of prominent women personalities from the Member States with a view to making recommendations to the SAARC bodies on a broad spectrum of gender related issues. They directed the Council of Ministers to take necessary steps to prepare and present, for consideration at their next meeting, the Terms of Reference for the purpose.

25. The Heads of State or Government recognized the need to actively pursue and promote social development through empowerment of women and to achieve their full participation in decision making at all levels. They reaffirmed their commitment to uplift the social status of the people, women and children in particular, in the region and expressed their common resolve to accord the highest priority to promoting social development through specific and targeted programs. The Leaders directed the Council of Ministers to take necessary measures to ensure the enjoyment by women and girl children of their inherent potential. They also directed the Council of Ministers to constitute a Task Force to review the status of implementation of past decisions related to the social sector and to suggest guidelines for their effective implementation in the future.

26. The Leaders directed the Council of Ministers to take concrete steps to give priority to investing in children as an effective means for poverty reduction in the long run. Reaffirming their commitment to the Colombo Plan of Action and the Rawalpindi Declaration and recalling the declaration of 2001 to 2010 as the SAARC Decade of the Rights of the Child, the Heads of State or Government noted with appreciation the South Asia High-level Meeting on Children held in Kathmandu in May 2001. They reaffirmed their conviction that the children in South Asia deserve urgent and focused attention to enhance the long-term and overall progress of the countries of the region.

27. The Heads of State or Government agreed to mobilize the necessary resources and intensify broad based actions to achieve a set of priority goals related to improving the status of children, such as polio eradication by 2005, protection of children from mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS, and quality basic education to the children within a time-bound period.

Education

28. The Heads of State or Government instructed the concerned Ministries of Governments to devise appropriate strategies for raising the quality of education through the exchange of information among the universities in the region. While emphasizing the importance of mutual recognition of the educational institutions, they agreed to give the necessary impetus to realize the goal of a common regional educational standard through uniform methods of instruction and teaching aids. They were unanimous in recognizing the benefit of introducing SAARC in the national curricula at appropriate levels of study in order to enhance the awareness about Association's goals and objectives.

29. The Heads of State or Government recognized that access to quality education was an important element for the empowerment of all segments of society, and undertook to develop or strengthen national strategies and action plans to ensure that all children particularly the girl child have access to quality primary education by 2015; and to improve levels of adult literacy by fifty percent by eliminating gender disparities in access to education as envisaged in the Dakar Framework for Action on Education for All adopted by the World Education Forum held at Dakar in April 2000.

International Political and Economic Environment

30. The Heads of State or Government reiterated their firm support for the principles and purposes of the United Nations in order to create a just, balanced and equitable world order. They reaffirmed their commitment to continue working with the NAM and other like-minded countries for the reform and democratisation of the United Nations System with a view to making it an effective and more democratic institution for international peace, security, progress and cooperation.

31. The Heads of State or Government were of the view that stability, peace and security in South Asia should be promoted together with efforts to improve the global security environment. They underscored their commitment to general and complete disarmament including nuclear disarmament on a universal basis, under effective international control. They agreed that global non-proliferation goals could not be achieved in the absence of progress towards nuclear disarmament and in this context called upon all nuclear weapon states, whether party or non-party to the NPT, to engage constructively through a transparent and credible process of negotiations at the Conference on Disarmament. The Leaders also recognized the linkage between disarmament and development.

32. The Leaders emphasized the need to take appropriate measures to make international financial institutions and the global trading regime more responsive to the needs and concerns of the developing countries. They

reiterated the call for genuine partnership among the developed and developing countries in international trade and finance and for the reform of the global financial architecture with an enhanced level of resources.

33. The Leaders also called upon the developed countries to facilitate and ensure an unimpeded and enhanced level of market access to products from the developing, the least developed and the land-locked countries.

34. Recognizing the important role that trade can play in advancing the overall development of a country, thus contributing to an equitable and sustainable world order, the Heads of State or Government also called for an early realization of a rule-based and non-discriminatory world trade regime. In this context, they appreciated the positive elements of the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference held in Doha and called upon the developed countries to fulfill their commitments to address the particular concerns and needs of the developing and the least developed countries. The Leaders also instructed the forthcoming meeting of the Committee on Economic Cooperation to devote at least half a day for discussions on the evaluation of the decisions of the recently concluded Doha conference in order to evolve better co-ordinated positions among the Member States on all WTO issues. They further stressed the need to intensify coordination among the SAARC missions in Geneva and begin the necessary preparation to advance the common interest of the region in the Fifth WTO Ministerial conference.

35. The Heads of State or Government noted with serious concern the adverse impact of the shrinking Official Development Assistance (ODA) and other concessional financial flows on developing countries in general, and the least developed among them in particular. They further noted with concern the current trend of the global economic slowdown and its adverse effects on these economies. Taking into account the interdependent nature of the global economy, the Leaders urged the developed countries to enhance the level of ODA flows to meet the internationally agreed targets.

36. Recalling the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries held in Brussels in May 2001 and the decisions of the Zanzibar Declaration of July 2001, the Leaders urged the developed countries to adopt more liberal trade and aid policies responsive to the particular needs of the least developed countries. Referring to the forthcoming International Conference on Financing for Development to be held in Mexico in March 2002, the Leaders urged the international community to strengthen cooperation for development by addressing international and systemic issues related to financing for development in the developing and the least developed countries in a holistic manner.

37. The Heads of State or Government welcomed the initiative of the donor countries to relieve the external debt burden of the Highly Indebted Poor Countries. They urged the international donor community and financial institutions to widen the scope and extent of debt relief initiatives to cover all those developing and the least developed countries, which are facing developmental difficulties particularly due to the current global recession. In the context of growing global interdependence, they underlined the importance of forging cooperative partnership between the developed and the developing countries to ensure equitable benefits to all.

38. The Heads of State or Government expressed concern over the continued violence and bloodshed in the Middle East, and the set backs suffered by the peace process. They reaffirmed their support for the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace based on Security Council Resolution 242 (1967) and Resolution 338 (1973) and the establishment of a sovereign Palestine State under the leadership of PLO, which could coexist with its neighbours in peace, security and harmony.

Security of Small States

39. The Heads of State or Government recognized that due to their particular vulnerability, small states require special measures for support from the international community for the safeguarding of their sovereign independence and territorial integrity. They reiterated that the real protection of small states should be firmly rooted in the scrupulous adherence to the UN Charter, the rule of law and the strict adherence to universally accepted principles and norms related to sovereign rights and territorial integrity of all states, irrespective of size. This, they stressed, should be ensured by all the countries, either severally or collectively through the pursuit of appropriate action.

Terrorism

40. The Heads of State or Government were convinced that terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, is a challenge to all states and to all of humanity, and cannot be justified on ideological, political, religious or on any other ground. The Leaders agreed that terrorism violates the fundamental values of the United Nations and the SAARC Charter and constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security in the Twenty-first century.

41. The Heads of State or Government emphasized the need for the urgent conclusion of a Comprehensive Convention on Combating International Terrorism. They also emphasized that international co-operation to combat terrorism should be conducted in conformity with the UN Charter, international law and relevant international conventions.

42. The Heads of State or Government reiterated their support to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1373 of September 28, 2001 and affirmed their determination to redouble efforts, collectively as well as individually, to prevent and suppress terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including by increased cooperation and full implementation of the relevant international Conventions relating to terrorism to which they are parties. In this context, they called on all states to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist acts by criminalizing the collection of funds for such acts and refraining from organizing, instigating, assisting or participating in terrorist acts in states or acquiescing in organized activities within its territory directed towards the commission of such acts. The Leaders reaffirmed that the fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations has to be comprehensive and sustained.

43. The Heads of State or Government were unanimous in recognizing the distinct ominous link between terrorism, drug-trafficking, money laundering and other trans-national crimes and emphasized the need to coordinate efforts at the national and regional levels to strengthen the global response to this serious challenge and threat to international security. They called upon the international community to assist Member States of SAARC to deal effectively with the adverse economic effects of terrorism in general and to meet the rising insurance and security related costs in particular.

44. The Heads of State or Government reaffirmed their commitment to SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism, which, among others, recognizes the seriousness of the problem of terrorism as it affects the security, stability, and development of the region. They also reiterated their firm resolve to accelerate the enactment of enabling legislation within a definite time-frame for the full implementation of the Convention, together with strengthening of SAARC Terrorist Offences Monitoring Desk and the SAARC Drug Offences Monitoring Desk in an effective manner.

Report of the Group of Eminent Persons

45. The Leaders noted with appreciation that the Report of the Group of Eminent Persons (GEP) was an important contribution in the on-going process of introspection into the functioning of the Association as well as in setting out a perspective plan of action for that purpose. They endorsed the report of the Council of Ministers on the implementation of the recommendations of the GEP Report, and directed the Council of Ministers to undertake a review of progress in this regard.

Enhancing Political Cooperation

46. The Heads of State or Government reaffirmed their commitment to the promotion of mutual trust and understanding and, recognizing that the aims of promoting peace, stability and amity and accelerated socio-economic cooperation may best be achieved by fostering good neighbourly relations, relieving tensions and building confidence, agreed that a process of informal consultations would prove useful in this regard. The Leaders further recognized that this process would contribute to the appreciation of each other's problems and perceptions as well as for decisive action in agreed areas of regional cooperation. They underlined the importance of informal political consultations in promoting mutual understanding and reinforcing the confidence building process among the Member States.

Sub-regional Cooperation

47. The Heads of State or Government reaffirmed the validity of the idea of encouraging the development of specific projects relevant to the individual needs of three or more Member States under the provisions of Articles VII and X of the SAARC Charter.

South Asian Development Fund (SADF)

48. The Heads of State or Government underlined the urgent need to make the South Asian Development Fund operational by making utilization of the existing funds. They also instructed the Secretary-General to submit a proposal for seeking possible assistance from regional and international sources for the implementation of specific regional poverty alleviation priority projects.

Environment

49. The Heads of State or Government noted with satisfaction the growing public awareness on the need for protecting the environment within the framework of regional cooperation. They reiterated their call for the early and effective implementation of the SAARC Environment Plan of Action as endorsed by the SAARC Environment Ministers. They directed their Environment Ministers to take this into account and come up with an agreed position in their forthcoming meeting.

50. The Heads of State or Government also felt a strong need to devise a mechanism for cooperation in the field of the early warning on as well as preparedness and management of natural disasters, along with programs to promote conservation of land and water resources.

51. The Heads of State or Government also stressed the need to develop a cooperative mechanism for the protection, enrichment and utilization of bio-diversity as provided for in the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and to establish a regional bio-diversity database with a view to providing equitable benefits to all Member States. They also underscored the importance of protecting associated knowledge and other indigenous intellectual manifestations for the advancement of the region. They also directed the Council of Ministers to explore the possibility of establishing a SAARC Seed Security Reserve to strengthen cooperation in the field of agriculture and to protect IPRs of the seeds of the Reserve.

People-to-People Contact

52. The Heads of State or Government were unanimous in recognizing the need for further promoting a sense of regional identity amongst the peoples of the region. The Leaders lauded the roles played by intellectuals, professionals and eminent persons in promoting people-to-people contacts within the region and agreed to encourage such endeavours as a healthy sign of regional cohesion and fraternity. In this context, they took note of the activities of the SAARCLAW including other recognized bodies. They also took note of the First Meeting of the Chief Election Commissioners of SAARC Countries held in Kathmandu in February 1999 and appreciated the initiative on free and fair election. The Leaders instructed the Secretary-General to collect on a regular basis study reports and other relevant documents and information from the civil society on matters relating to regional cooperation for dissemination to Member States.

Rationalization and Institutional Issues

53. The Heads of State or Government were in agreement that the Summit and all other meetings of SAARC needed to be made more business-like and result-oriented with focus on programs and activities supported by informed regional inputs from the cross-sections of the society. They directed the Chairman of the Council of Ministers to undertake a review of the functioning and operation of SAARC Secretariat, and to make recommendations to advance the process of rationalisation and to make SAARC more functional and business-like, to the next meeting of the Council of Ministers.

SAARC Award

54. The Heads of State or Government noted with appreciation the proposal made by Nepal to institute a SAARC Award to honour the outstanding work of individuals and organizations within the region in the fields of peace, development, poverty alleviation and regional cooperation, and requested His Majesty's Government of Nepal to submit a concept paper for consideration by the next session of the Council of Ministers.

Date and Venue of the Twelfth Summit

55. The Heads of State or Government welcomed with appreciation the offer of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host the Twelfth Summit Meeting of the Heads of State or Government of the South Asian Association for the Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in Pakistan in early 2003.

56. The Heads of State or Government of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka expressed their deep appreciation for the exemplary manner in which the Right Honourable Prime Minister of Nepal conducted the proceedings of the Eleventh SAARC Summit in his capacity as Chairperson. They also expressed their deep gratitude for the generous hospitality extended to them by His Majesty's Government and people of Nepal, and for the excellent arrangements made for the Summit.

United Nations A/56/785–S/2002/100

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
22 January 2002

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 62
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

Letter dated 21 January 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 16 October 2001 (A/56/476-S/2001/972), I have the honour to draw Your Excellency's attention to new massive violations of the flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by military aircraft of the Turkish air force, recorded on 12, 15, 22, 24 and 25 October, 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22 and 29 November and on 5, 12, 13, 24, 25 and 26 December 2001.

On 12 October, one C-160 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic. The aircraft returned on the same day to the FIR of Ankara.

On 15 October, two RF-4 Turkish military aircraft, flying in one formation, entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations before returning to the FIR of Ankara.

On 22 October, one B-200 and one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic. The B-200 aircraft returned on the same day to the FIR of Ankara while the CN-235 returned to the FIR of Ankara on 26 October 2001.

On 24 October, one C-160 and one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, as follows:

(a) The C-160 military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia (Cape of Apostolos Andreas) before exiting towards a south-eastern direction. The aircraft returned on the same day from the

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same direction and flying over the area of Karpasia, violated again the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, before exiting towards the FIR of Ankara;

(b) The CN-235 military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic. The aircraft returned on the same day to the FIR of Ankara.

On 25 October, two F-4 Turkish military aircraft, coming from the FIR of Ankara, entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations before exiting towards a westerly direction.

On 1 November, one F-4 Turkish military aircraft, coming from a south-eastern direction, entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia (Cape of Apostolos Andreas), before exiting towards the FIR of Ankara.

On 2 November, two F-4 and two RF-4, flying in one formation, coming from the FIR of Ankara, entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia (Cape of Apostolos Andreas) and then in parallel with the north coastline of Cyprus, before exiting towards the FIR of Ankara.

On 6 November, one B-200 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic. The aircraft returned to the FIR of Ankara on 8 November.

On 7 November, one F-4 and one C-130 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, as follows:

(a) The F-4 aircraft, coming from a south-eastern direction, entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia (Cape of Apostolos Andreas) before exiting towards the FIR of Ankara;

(b) The C-130 aircraft, coming from the FIR of Ankara, entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia (Cape of Apostolos Andreas) before exiting towards a south-eastern direction. The said aircraft returned from the same direction.

On 8 November, one B-200 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic. The B-200 aircraft returned on the same day to the FIR of Ankara.

On 9 November, one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal

airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic. The CN-235 aircraft returned on the same day to the FIR of Ankara.

On 12 November, one C-650 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic. The C-650 aircraft returned on the same day to the FIR of Ankara.

On 14 November, one CN-235 and one GulfStream Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic. Both aircraft returned on the same day to the FIR of Ankara.

On 15 November, one C-130 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic. The C-130 aircraft returned on the same day to the FIR of Ankara.

On 16 November, one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic. The CN-235 aircraft returned on the same day to the FIR of Ankara.

On 21 November, two F-16, flying in one formation, and one C-160 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, as follows:

(a) The two F-16 aircraft, coming from the Ankara FIR, entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations before exiting towards a westerly direction;

(b) The C-160 aircraft, coming from the FIR of Ankara, entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic. The CN-235 aircraft returned on the same day to the FIR of Ankara.

On 22 November, one C-160 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia (Cape of Apostolos Andreas), before exiting towards a south-eastern direction. The aircraft returned afterwards from the same direction.

On 29 November, one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic. The CN-235 aircraft returned on the same day to the FIR of Ankara.

On 5 December, one C-130 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the

Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia (Cape of Apostolos Andreas), before exiting towards a south-eastern direction. The aircraft returned afterwards from the same direction.

On 12 December, one C-160 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia (Cape of Apostolos Andreas), before exiting towards a south-eastern direction. The aircraft returned afterwards from the same direction.

On 13 December, one F-4 Turkish military aircraft, coming from a south-eastern direction, entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia (Cape of Apostolos Andreas), before exiting towards the FIR of Ankara.

On 24 December, twelve F-16, four F-4, one CN-235 and two KC-135 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, as follows:

(a) One CN-235 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia (Cape of Apostolos Andreas) before returning to the FIR of Ankara;

(b) Two KC-135 military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating the air traffic regulations before exiting towards a south-eastern direction. The aircraft returned on the same day from the same direction;

(c) Eight F-16, flying in two formations, violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia (Cape of Apostolos Andreas) before exiting towards a south-eastern direction. The aircraft returned on the same day from the same direction;

(d) Four F-16 military aircraft, flying in one formation, entered the Nicosia FIR, violating the air traffic regulations before exiting towards a south-eastern direction. The aircraft returned on the same day from the same direction;

(e) Four F-4 military aircraft, flying in one formation, entered the Nicosia FIR, violating the air traffic regulations before exiting towards a south-eastern direction. The aircraft returned on the same day from the same direction.

On 25 December, four F-16, four F-4, one CN-235 and one KC-135 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, as follows:

(a) One CN-235 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia (Cape of Apostolos Andreas) before returning to the FIR of Ankara;

(b) The KC-135 military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating the air traffic regulations before exiting towards a south-eastern direction. The aircraft returned on the same day from the same direction;

(c) Four F-16 and four F-4 military aircraft, flying in two formations, violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia (Cape of Apostolos Andreas) before exiting towards a south-eastern direction. The aircraft returned on the same day from the same direction.

On 26 December, eight F-16, one CN-235, one KC-135 and one C-160 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, as follows:

(a) One CN-235 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia (Cape of Apostolos Andreas) before returning to the FIR of Ankara;

(b) The KC-135 military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating the air traffic regulations before exiting towards a south-eastern direction. The aircraft returned on the same day from the same direction;

(c) The C-160 military aircraft violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia (Cape of Apostolos Andreas) before exiting towards a south-eastern direction. The aircraft returned on the same day from the same direction;

(d) Four F-16 military aircraft, flying in one formation, violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia (Cape of Apostolos Andreas) before exiting towards a south-eastern direction. The aircraft returned on the same day, flying in two formations, from the same direction;

(e) Four F-16 military aircraft, flying in one formation returning to the FIR of Ankara, entered the Nicosia FIR, violating the air traffic regulations before exiting towards a south-eastern direction. The aircraft returned on the same day from the same direction.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I strongly protest the above actions, which violate international law as well as the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus, and call for their cessation. I would like to note that these violations are occurring at the moment of the beginning of direct talks in Cyprus at the invitation of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in the exercise of his mission of good offices. Let us not forget that the Security Council in its statement of 14 December 2001, gave its full support to the Secretary-General's mission of good offices conducted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1250 (1999). Let us hope that the Government of Turkey will show restraint and will cease the violation of the airspace of Cyprus and contribute to the efforts to find a just and viable solution to the Cyprus problem on the basis of United Nations resolutions.

I shall be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dr. George **Kasoulides**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United Nations A/56/787–S/2002/103

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
22 January 2002
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 42
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

Letter dated 22 January 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that, because of the absence of maps showing the locations where mines have been placed, at about 1135 hours on 23 October 2001 an Israeli-made pressure-activated A-4 anti-personnel mine exploded during an operation to clear mines left behind by the Israeli occupation in the vicinity of Jabal Safi, killing First Lieutenant Majid Kasan.

Lebanon calls attention to the increasing numbers of casualties being caused by the mines left in the liberated areas, and it requests you to make the necessary endeavours to prevail upon Israel to hand over all of the maps and records relating to mines and their locations, as required by Security Council resolution 1365 (2001) and the norms of international humanitarian law.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sélim **Tadmoury**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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United Nations A/56/788–S/2002/104

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
22 January 2002

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 166
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

Letter dated 22 January 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to draw your attention to the latest attacks in the ongoing campaign of Palestinian terrorism.

This afternoon, at approximately 6.15 p.m. (local time), a Palestinian terrorist opened fire with an automatic rifle on several Israelis waiting at a bus stop, injuring 46 people, six of them critically. The shooting occurred on Jaffa Road, the main street in downtown Jerusalem, at an hour when the area was filled with pedestrians. This is precisely the same location where two suicide bombers attacked a crowd of teenagers on 1 December 2001 and is just down the street from the Sbarro pizza shop that was attacked on 9 August 2001. The Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, a wing of Chairman Yasser Arafat's own Fatah faction, claimed responsibility for today's attack.

Today's shooting in Jerusalem comes after a weekend that witnessed a sharp escalation of shooting and bomb attacks on Israeli targets, including the attempted abduction by Palestinian terrorists of three Israelis in the city of Tulkarm. On 17 January, a Palestinian gunman opened fire during a bat mitzvah celebration in the city of Hadera, killing six civilians and wounding more than 30 others. The day before, Palestinian terrorists killed Shkadeh Dadis, a 30-year-old Israeli man, firing many rounds from an M-16 rifle at his vehicle before escaping into the village of Qabatiyeh.

These attacks are the latest incidents in the continuing campaign of Palestinian terrorism directed specifically at Israeli civilians. Previous attacks have been detailed in my letters dated 18 January 2002 (A/56/781-S/2002/86), 16 January 2002 (A/56/774-S/2002/73), 11 January 2002 (A/56/771-S/2002/47), 4 January 2002 (A/56/766-S/2002/25), 13 December 2001 (A/56/706-S/2001/1198), 4 December 2001 (A/56/678-S/2001/1150), 30 November 2001 (A/56/670-S/2001/1141),

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27 November 2001 (A/56/663-S/2001/1121), 12 November 2001 (A/56/617-S/2001/1071), 5 November 2001 (A/56/604-S/2001/1048), 24 October 2001 (A/56/506-S/2001/1011), 19 October 2001 (A/56/492-S/2001/990), 17 October 2001 (A/56/483-S/2001/975), 8 October 2001 (A/56/450-S/2001/948), 5 October 2001 (A/56/444-S/2001/943), 3 October 2001 (A/56/438-S/2001/938), 24 September 2001 (A/56/406-S/2001/907), 20 September 2001 (A/56/386-S/2001/892), 17 September 2001 (A/56/367-S/2001/875), 7 September 2001 (A/56/346-S/2001/858), 4 September 2001 (A/56/331-S/2001/840), 30 August 2001 (A/56/325-S/2001/834), 27 August 2001 (A/56/324-S/2001/825), 13 August 2001 (A/56/294-S/2001/787), 9 August 2001 (A/56/286-S/2001/780), 8 August 2001 (A/56/280-S/2001/775), 6 August 2001 (A/56/272-S/2001/768), 27 July 2001 (A/56/225-S/2001/743), 26 July 2001 (A/56/223-S/2001/737), 17 July 2001 (A/56/201-S/2001/706), 13 July 2001 (A/56/184-S/2001/696), 3 July 2001 (A/56/138-S/2001/662), 2 July 2001 (A/56/131-S/2001/656), 21 June 2001 (A/56/119-S/2001/619), 19 June 2001 (A/56/98-S/2001/611), 18 June 2001 (A/56/97-S/2001/604), 13 June 2001 (A/56/92-S/2001/585), 11 June 2001 (A/56/91-S/2001/580), 4 June 2001 (A/56/85-S/2001/555), 30 May 2001 (A/56/81-S/2001/540), 25 May 2001 (A/56/80-S/2001/524), 18 May 2001 (A/56/78-S/2001/506), 11 May 2001 (A/56/72-S/2001/473), 9 May 2001 (A/56/69-S/2001/459), 1 May 2001 (A/55/924-S/2001/435), 23 April 2001 (A/55/910-S/2001/396), 16 April 2001 (A/55/901-S/2001/364), 28 March 2001 (A/55/863-S/2001/291), 27 March 2001 (A/55/860-S/2001/280), 26 March 2001 (A/55/858-S/2001/278), 19 March 2001 (A/55/842-S/2001/244), 5 March 2001 (A/55/821-S/2001/193), 2 March 2001 (A/55/819-S/2001/187), 14 February 2001 (A/55/787-S/2001/137), 13 February 2001 (A/55/781-S/2001/132), 2 February 2001 (A/55/762-S/2001/103), 25 January 2001 (A/55/748-S/2001/81), 23 January 2001 (A/55/742-S/2001/71), 28 December 2000 (A/55/719-S/2000/1252), 22 November 2000 (A/55/641-S/2000/1114), 20 November 2000 (A/55/634-S/2000/1108) and 2 November 2000 (A/55/540-S/2000/1065).

Israel holds Chairman Arafat and the Palestinian Authority responsible for these attacks in light of their continuing support for terrorist attacks against Israeli civilians and the increasingly active role of factions under the direct authority of Chairman Arafat in perpetrating terrorist attacks. The Palestinian leadership persists in its attempts to deceive the international community and obscure its central role in encouraging and carrying out attacks against civilians by continuing to call for an end to violence and condemning the very attacks that it is itself responsible for perpetrating.

Efforts to engage in a viable political process aimed at achieving a just and lasting resolution to the conflict in our region will be impossible so long as terrorism is considered a legitimate tool for the advancement of Palestinian political objectives. The Palestinian leadership continues to do everything in its power to avoid taking the necessary actions to uproot the terrorist infrastructure that it has permitted to flourish in the territory under its control. At a time when the international community is uniting to combat the scourge of terrorism, it is imperative that constant and unrelenting pressure be exerted on the Palestinian leadership to ensure that it fulfils its international obligations to prevent its territory from being used as a staging ground for attacks against civilians.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter circulated as an official document of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 166, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yehuda **Lancry**
Permanent Representative

United Nations A/56/789

General Assembly

Distr.: General
23 January 2002

Original: English

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 133
Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Instances for which the United Nations is entitled to restitution as the result of non-compliance with status-of-forces or other agreements

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is being submitted pursuant to the request made by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in paragraph 11 of its report on the financing of the United Nations Protection Force, the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia, the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force and the United Nations Peace Forces headquarters (A/51/491), that it be provided with a compendium of all instances where the United Nations is entitled to restitution as the result of non-compliance with status-of-forces or other agreements.

Contents

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	Introduction	1–2	2
II.	Criteria for assessment of violation of status-of-forces or status-of-mission agreements	3–5	2
III.	Host country non-compliance with status-of-forces or status-of-mission agreements	6–11	3
IV.	Action to be taken by the General Assembly	12	6

02-22877 (E) 190202

I. Introduction

1. Following the request made by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its report (A/51/491), the Secretariat has reviewed all instances of non-compliance with status-of-forces or other agreements[1] with a view to developing a compendium covering the period from January 1993 to 31 August 2001. In order to undertake this task, the Secretariat identified those provisions in the status-of-forces or other agreements relating to obligations of host countries and concessions granted to United Nations peacekeeping operations which, as a result of host countries' non-compliance, have resulted in the Organization incurring unforeseen financial costs.

2. The Secretariat regrets the late submission of the present report to Member States and would like to inform them that it has followed up and is continuing to follow up with those host countries whose non-compliance with status-of-forces or other agreements has resulted in expenditures for the United Nations for which it is entitled to be restituted.

II. Criteria for assessment of violation of status-of-forces or status-of-mission agreements

3. Although an all-embracing definition of what constitutes a violation of a status-of-forces or status-of-mission agreement by a host country is difficult to formulate, for purposes of the present report, it can be qualified in general terms, as non-compliance with the terms and conditions of the agreement by the host country, as a result of which the Organization incurs costs or financial obligations for which there may not have been a budgetary provision and which, otherwise, it was under no legal obligation to incur, in order to enable the mission to continue to function.

4. A set of criteria was developed which define cases or instances which are considered to be genuine status-of-forces or other agreements violations and for which the Organization is therefore due restitution. In carrying out this exercise, each peacekeeping mission was requested to review any such instances of charges made for items that should have been provided without cost, according to signed status-of-forces or other agreements between the United Nations and host countries, from January 1993 to August 2001, and to submit a detailed description with regard to each violation, including the financial liabilities incurred by the mission as a result.

5. The costs and financial obligations incurred by the Organization owing to non-compliance with status-of-forces or other agreements by countries hosting peacekeeping operations include the following:

(a) Payments of duties, tolls, fees and other charges related to usage for official purposes of roads, bridges, waterways, railroads, port facilities and airfields, except in the case of charges for services rendered;

[1] The term "other agreements" should be understood to include the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations adopted by the General Assembly on 13 February 1946 (resolution 22A (I)). In cases where status-of-forces or status-of-mission agreements have been concluded or where the model status-of-forces agreement (A/45/594, annex) is applicable, such agreements make specific provision for the application of the Convention.

(b) Payment of taxes, including sales taxes, duties and other indirect taxes such as value-added taxes (para. 9 refers), on the import or re-export of equipment, provisions, supplies and other goods which are for the exclusive and official use of United Nations peacekeeping operations, or for resale in the commissaries;

(c) Payment of rent in cases where premises necessary for the conduct of the operational and administrative activities of the United Nations peacekeeping operation and for the accommodation of United Nations personnel are provided by the host Government, which should be provided free of cost to the United Nations, where premises are available but the host Government does not provide them for the exclusive use of the United Nations;

(d) In the case that utilities cannot be provided free of charge to the United Nations and excess payment made above the most favourable rate or the terms agreed to with the competent authorities is required and for which the host Government does not provide restitution in case of payment;

(e) Payment by the United Nations of charges for host government issuance of visas, licences, permits or certificates for the operation of vehicles, aircraft or vessels and the practice of any profession or occupation, and the right to carry or use firearms or ammunition in connection with the functioning of the United Nations peacekeeping operation;

(f) Payment by the United Nations of any charges for the validation of licences and certificates already issued by appropriate authorities in other States in respect of aircraft and vessels;

(g) Purchases made by the United Nations for official use, on which duties and taxes have been charged or are chargeable and for which appropriate administrative arrangements for remission or return have not been made (payment of taxes, duties or other charges on the provision of host governments' telecommunications services above the most favourable rate with respect to the use of local telegraph, telex and telephone system);

(h) Payment of taxes, duties or other charges as a result of procurement of goods and services in connection with the functioning of a United Nations peacekeeping operation, levied by a third country, signatory of the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.

III. Host country non-compliance with status-of-forces or status-of-mission agreements

6. For the purpose of this reporting exercise, data was collected from all peacekeeping missions covering the period from January 1993 to August 2001. Violations of status-of-forces or other agreements were found to have been committed in 13 different peacekeeping missions: the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (MINURCA), the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), the United Nations Mission in Angola (MONUA), the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE), the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), the United Nations

Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT), the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) and the United Nations Peace Forces headquarters (the combined Forces) (UNPF). Table 1 provides data on the types and amounts of expenditures incurred by the Organization's peacekeeping missions as a result of host Governments not providing the prescribed facilities or services and not granting missions exemption from payment.

Table 1
Total costs incurred as a result of non-compliance with status-of-forces or other agreements, by type of expenditure
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Mission	*Rental of premises*	*Port charges*	*Airport charges*	*Road tolls*	*Petroleum taxes*	*Communications taxes*	*Value-added taxes*	*Total by mission*
MINURCA	502.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	502.2
MINURSO	200.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	200.0
MONUA	12 853.0	670.1	-	-	-	-	-	13 523.1
MONUC	1 415.2	-	-	-	83.9	-	-	1 499.1
UNAMSIL	528.8	-	131.1	-	-	-	-	659.9
UNMEE	236.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	236.6
UNMOGIP[a]	-	59.3	-	-	60.1	-	-	119.4
UNMOT	116.8	-	-	-	-	-	24.9	141.7
UNTSO	72.0	-	-	-	-	-	36.0	108.0
Subtotal	**15 924.6**	**729.4**	**131.1**	**-**	**144.0**	**-**	**60.9**	**16 990.0**
UNPF								
Republic of Croatia	49 138.3	-	5 294.6	191.1	37 359.5	679.0	-	92 662.5
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	110.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	110.4
Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	-	-	227.7	224.8	-	-	-	452.5
Bosnia and Herzegovina	34 042.3	-	-	112.1	-	-	-	34 154.4
Subtotal	**83 291.0**	**-**	**5 522.3**	**528.0**	**37 359.5**	**679.0**	**-**	**127 379.8**
Total	**99 215.6**	**729.4**	**5 653.4**	**528.0**	**37 503.5**	**679.0**	**60.9**	**144 369.8**

[a] Includes expenditures incurred by the United Nations in more than one Member State.

7. The General Assembly, in its resolution 51/12 of 4 November 1996 on the financing of the United Nations Protection Force, the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia, the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force and the United Nations Peace Forces headquarters, reaffirmed that the costs of the combined Forces are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations. The General Assembly also reminded all Member States that are host to a United Nations peacekeeping mission of their obligation to comply fully with the terms of the status-of-forces agreements. The United Nations has, nevertheless, paid substantial amounts for property rental charges and for various dues, tolls, charges

and taxes from which it should have been exempt to several host countries. For the period covered in the present report, a total of US$ 144,370,000 has been incurred by the Organization as the result of non-compliance with status-of-forces or other agreements. Of this amount, payments exacted by the Republic of Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia comprise 88 per cent of the total. The United Nations made such payments under protest for reasons of practical necessity and has, on several occasions, requested the respective Governments to reimburse the Organization for the full amount of expenditures incurred. Three notes verbales have been sent to the respective permanent missions requesting them to effect reimbursement without any reaction having been received. Rental accommodation expenditures, airport charges and petroleum taxes paid by the United Nations Peace Forces headquarters (the combined Forces) to the Republic of Croatia absorb 73 per cent of the total of UNPF payments.

8. Data received from peacekeeping missions covering the period in question indicate that cases of non-compliance with status-of-forces or other agreements mostly comprise rental of premises, charges for transportation access to ports, airports, roads, and taxes, including on petroleum and communications. The majority of violations are related to rental of office space and accommodation, reaching 69 per cent of the total expenditures reported for the 1993 to 2001 period, or 94 per cent of the total with the exclusion of the combined Forces. As host countries shall provide without cost to United Nations peacekeeping operations, in agreement with the Secretary-General's Special Representative, areas for headquarters, camps and other premises as may be required, in cases where such premises are not available, their obligation is to assist peacekeeping missions in obtaining the most favourable rates and terms and conditions under commercial lease agreements and to effect reimbursement to the Organization for such incurred costs.

9. The Organization has also been levied value-added taxes in several peacekeeping missions by a number of host Governments, which in all the reported cases have become a point of contention between the Secretariat and the host country. The Office of Legal Affairs, making reference to Article II, Section 8, of the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations, has on various occasions issued legal opinions on the payment and remission of indirect taxes, as follows:

> "While Section 8 does not provide for an explicit exemption from such taxes, it does oblige Member States to make the necessary administrative arrangements to remit or return any amount of tax charged on important purchases of goods and services. The question whether particular purchases are 'important' within the meaning of Section 8 is usually determined by reference either to purchases made on recurring basis or to purchases that involve considerable quantities of goods, commodities or materials. As substantial purchases are usually made by peacekeeping operations in a host country, status-of-forces agreements contain specific provisions exempting the United Nations from taxes charged on goods and services including general sales tax. This is consistent with paragraph 20 of the model status-of-forces agreement (A/45/594, annex), which provides:

'The Government shall exempt the United Nations peacekeeping operation from general sales taxes in respect of all official local purchases.' "

The Secretariat is of the opinion that indirect taxes, for example, value-added tax, levied on important purchases made by a peacekeeping mission should be refunded and, until such time as that is done, the host country is considered to be in violation of the status-of-forces agreement/status-of-mission agreement.

10. There exist other instances that do not qualify as cases of non-compliance with status-of-forces or other agreements as such, since financial liabilities are not incurred by the Organization, but which may seriously hamper the smooth and timely operations of a peacekeeping mission. Obtaining sale and import permits, registration documents and visas can be a time-consuming and cumbersome task and can affect the timeliness in which assets, including personnel, are moved to and within the mission area.

11. As mentioned in paragraph 7, the Secretariat has undertaken efforts to obtain reimbursement from countries hosting peacekeeping operations for costs incurred owing to violations of status-of-forces or other agreements. In this connection, it should be noted that those cases for which the Organization has received restitution have not been included in the compendium. Furthermore, instances of non-compliance are regularly followed up by the peacekeeping missions with the relevant authorities in the host countries, as well as by the Secretariat with the respective permanent missions of Member States in New York. The information included in the present report covers cases in which the Secretariat has engaged in regular dialogue with the respective host countries, but has not received reimbursement.

IV. Action to be taken by the General Assembly

12. **The action to be taken by the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on the instances for which the United Nations is entitled to restitution as the result of non-compliance with status-of-forces or other agreements is to take note of the information contained in the present report and endorse the efforts made by the Secretariat and by peacekeeping missions to obtain reimbursement of the amounts paid by the United Nations.**

United Nations A/56/790-S/2002/109

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
23 January 2002

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session
Agenda items 25 and 42

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations

The situation in the Middle East

Letter dated 22 January 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I would like to refer to the recent letter from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, dated 8 January 2002 (S/2002/37).

In his letter, the Permanent Representative of Iran alleges that Israel misrepresented a recent sermon by Ayatollah Hashemi Rafsanjani and quoted his statements out of context. Although these allegations are patently false, examining the context of Rafsanjani's statement is certainly useful to gaining a fuller understanding of the nature of Iran's rejection of Israel and the threats, both implied and explicit, that such a rejection entails.

The context of Rafsanjani's threat against Israel was a lengthy anti-Israel and anti-Western diatribe that attacks not only Israel's policies, but also the legitimacy of the State of Israel and its very right to exist. Rafsanjani repeatedly refers to Israel as a "pseudo-state" and as an outpost of Western "colonialism" and "imperialism", terms that are not mere pejoratives, but that are intended to deny the deep historic, emotional and religious ties between the Jewish people and the land of Israel. Rafsanjani's fallacious view of Israeli and Jewish history serves his purpose of challenging the legitimacy of the State of Israel and denying the right of the Jewish people to self-determination.

It is in this context that Rafsanjani made his appalling reference to the disparate consequences that nuclear attack would inflict on Israel and the Islamic world. He furthered this implied threat of nuclear genocide against the Jewish people with a more explicit one: "Finally one day, this tumour in the body of the Islamic world will be removed and then millions of Jews who have moved there [Israel] will be homeless again."

Such metaphors are quite common among the Iranian leadership. Ayatollah Ali Khameini, the leader of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, made a similar comment on 31 December 2001 in Tehran, stating that "Iran's dignity, unity and national interests

02-22853 (E) 300102

depend upon standing against the cancerous tumour of the Zionist regime". Precisely two years earlier, on 31 December 1999, Iranian President Mohammad Khatami stated that "*there is only one way to resolve the Palestinian question*, and that is through the annihilation and destruction of the Zionist regime".

Statements equating Israel with cancer, offensive as they are, are even more appalling in light of the fact that Iran's leadership often speaks of the need for dialogue among civilizations and takes great pride in having introduced an item of the same name to the agenda of the United Nations. It is the very definition of hypocrisy for a State to portray itself as the leader of an initiative to foster greater understanding and tolerance among civilizations while simultaneously calling for the destruction of a fellow Member State that has been a member of the United Nations since 1949. President Khatami reminded the General Assembly on 9 November 2001 that dialogue requires "wisdom, discipline and good will". Do the aforementioned statements, and the scores of others like them, contribute to the necessary good will upon which a dialogue among civilizations can flourish?

In short, Rafsanjani's reference to annihilating the State of Israel with nuclear weapons was but one small part of a much larger invective against Israel's right to exist, including thinly veiled threats levelled against Western nations that support Israel. It is regrettable, although not altogether surprising, that the Permanent Representative of Iran has resorted to name-calling in refuting the letter of Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, which originally drew international attention to the shameful statement of Hashemi Rafsanjani, rather than address the substance of the statement itself.

Therefore, in the interest of impartiality, and to enable the international community to judge Rafsanjani's statement for itself, I have attached the full text of the statement, delivered in Tehran on 14 December 2001 and broadcast by the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the regime's official radio station. The translation is provided by the Monitoring Service of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 25 and 42, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yehuda **Lancry**
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 22 January 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Chairman of Expediency Council, Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, delivered at Tehran University on 14 December 2001 (Source: British Broadcasting Corporation, Worldwide Monitoring Service)

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate... In response to your demands I will dedicate the first sermon to the Palestinian issue and the events in the world of Islam. I will use the second sermon to deal with other matters.

First, I have to thank all the good people who have made an effort to participate in the Quds rallies. In many streets I saw their ranks moving towards the university. This reflects the vigilance, the awareness, the faith and the dependable character of our good people. I hope similar support for the Palestinians is being expressed throughout the world. Palestinian issue

The Palestinian issue, and the formation of the state of Israel, is among the worst periods of our contemporary history. I don't know of any similar tragedy. In the fifty years that this pseudo state has been formed, and in the several decades before it, when fighting was going on, hundreds of thousands of holy people shed their blood, millions of people lost their homes, millions of people were injured, tragedies resulting from these events constitute the greatest encyclopedia of crime committed by the World Arrogance. History will not forget these things. In my sermon I would like to discuss some 30 points about the history of these events. I think it may be possible to speak about them in a single discourse and I would like to refer to the important points of this history.

First, this is the most misfortunate, tragic and bitter colonial event. Secondly colonialism, lead by Britain and then America, and supported by the United Nations and other sections of the World Arrogance are responsible for these crimes. If in the future an international court is formed - and this is my third point: a court will be formed sooner or later - and if those responsible for these crimes are put on trial many bitter truths will become known in the court. We should follow up this idea and we should ask just and knowledgeable judges to look into these crimes.

The fourth point is that the engine for this disaster is international Zionism. Zionism is a political party which was created some 100 years ago. It is named after the devotees of Zion, a hilltop in Bayt al-Maqdis. This party is not purely Jewish and not all Jews are Zionist. There are many Jews who don't believe in Zionism. There are many Jewish scholars in America who have been active against the these events. They are also present in other parts of the world. Not all the members of the party are Jewish. There are distinguished Western politicians who were Zionist, such as Churchill, Eisenhower, Kennedy, etc. Of course, I am not an expert in this field and I don't want to put any names in this list but those who are interested can find out the names of the well known Zionists. This party is still very active around the world and it is the engine for important

events connected to Israel, and the Arab and Islamic world. This was my fourth point.

The fifth point is that the loss suffered by the formation of the pseudo state of Israel went beyond Palestine. The Jewish people themselves suffered. This is so because the Jewish people were settled in many countries. In our country, Iran, they were getting on with their life. They were engaged in business. They were rich. They enjoyed influence and a good life. This Zionist movement provoked many Jews, on the basis of their devotion to a religious state of their own, to take a wrong posture. They were put under pressure. There was an exodus and many of them became homeless. Now they have to live in those territories. I will discuss the living conditions in this country if I have the time. But they now have to wait for a possible reverse exodus because finally one day, this tumour in the body of the Islamic world will be removed and then millions of Jews who have moved there will be homeless again. When will this happen? We have to discuss this point on another occasion.

This formation of Israel was also to the loss of the region. The region suffered a great loss. Hundreds of billions of dollars have been spent on armament and war. This is beside the acts of injustice committed against the people of Palestine. So who has benefited from the situation? This is my sixth point: The root of the problem is colonial. As traditional form of colonialism came to an end the colonialists sought new instruments of influence . One of these was to impose lackey governments in the previous colonies. The other was to create many military bases across the world, in the Pacific Ocean, the Indian Ocean, the Atlantic Ocean, and other sensitive regions of the world. Costly military colonial posts on land and sea. But the most important objective was to create governments which were totally dependent on colonialism and the best case was that of the Jews - the Zionist government in the Palestinian land. This base was to serve several objectives.

Firstly, it was aimed at getting rid of Zionism in the West, which had become a real nuisance to governments and great powers. It was causing trouble. They threw them out and brought them to Palestine. Secondly, they made Zionism and the Israeli government dependent on themselves to make sure that they would be a tool in their hands. However, the opposite is true as well. They have lobbies which take advantage of colonialism to ensure their own survival. However, colonialism is the main factor. Later on, it was transformed into imperialism because colonialism did not officially exist any more. That was how it manifested itself.

Thirdly, they did that to cause insecurity and threaten other governments and force them to become dependent on imperialism. Then they could sell them arms and do other military things as well. This deeply affected the lives of the people and government of the region and Muslims because they needed particular Western and imperialist products.

There was constant warfare and regional countries became insecure and there was an attempt to prevent their economic and technological growth. We can see this happening and one does not need to explain it in detail. You can see all these things. Therefore, that is the important point. Please do not forget that point until the end of our discussion. Then we can see how much we can count on that when we are analysing the situation or when

we are making predictions about the future. The Israeli government was established to act as a guardian, protector and gendarme that defends the interests of imperialism. I have already mentioned several points with regard to that issue.

The Israeli government itself, be it when it was in its embryonic stage or in its present shape, has been hanging from the umbilical cord of colonialism. It has been feeding off it. If the imperialists stop supporting it, it will be in trouble. Thus there is no independent government in Israel in the true sense of the word. It is totally dependent. Now, the Americans are officially contributing 4bn dollars a year to it. There is also the unofficial contributions made by Jewish communities and others. It is a lot.

It is also supported politically in the United Nations and many other places. They also contain Islamic and Arab governments. Israel needs all of those things and the Americans and Britain are meeting its needs. Therefore, we should consider it to be an outgrowth of colonialism and a multi-purpose colonial base. That is where we should start discussing the next point. So the survival of Israel depends on the interests of imperialists and colonialists. So they go together.

The colonialists will keep this base as long as they need it. Now, whether they can do so or not is a separate issue and this is my next point. Any time they find a replacement for that particular instrument, they will take it up and this will come to an end. This will open a new chapter. Because colonialism and imperialism will not easily leave the people of the world alone. Therefore, you can see that they have arranged it in a way that the balance of power favours Israel. Well, from a numerical point of view, it cannot have as many troops as Muslims and Arabs do. So they have improved the quality of what they have. Classical weaponry has its own limitations. They have limited use. They have a limited range as well. They have supplied vast quantities of weapons of mass destruction and unconventional weapons to Israel. They have permitted it to have them and they have shut their eyes to what is going on. They have nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and long-range missiles and suchlike.

If one day - changes thought Of course, that is very important. If one day, the Islamic world is also equipped with weapons like those that Israel possesses now, then the imperialists' strategy will reach a standstill because the use of even one nuclear bomb inside Israel will destroy everything. However, it will only harm the Islamic world. It is not irrational to contemplate such an eventuality. Of course, you can see that the Americans have kept their eyes peeled and they are carefully looking for even the slightest hint that technological advances are being made by an independent Islamic country. If an independent Islamic country is thinking about acquiring other kinds of weaponry, then they will do their utmost to prevent it from acquiring them. Well, that is something that almost the entire world is discussing right now.

Now, even if that does not happen, they can still inflict greater costs on the imperialists. That is possible as well. Developments over the last few months really frightened the Americans. That is a cost in itself. Under special circumstances, such costs may be inflicted on the imperialists by people who are fighting for their rights or by Muslims.

Then they will compare them to see how they could advance their interests better or what they can do. However, we cannot engage in such debates for too long. We cannot encourage that sort of thing either. I am only talking about the natural course of developments. The natural course of developments is such that such things may happen.

Those who are desperate, but who are also faithful and idealistic, see that this is in their best interests. Then no-one will be able to control them. That is when they become disappointed with such ordinary deceptive methods. Therefore, in the future, the interests of colonialism and imperialism dictate whether Israel will survive or not. Moreover, it is the resistance put up by Muslims and Iraq and the Palestinians themselves that matters. They should besiege imperialists and make them think about whether it serves their interests or not. They should also think about whether maintaining the current balance of power, which favours Israel, is affordable or not. Both of those things may change in the future.

Well, what kind of policy should the Islamic Republic pursue? That is a different issue, which is our eighth or ninth point. As I said, the supreme leader of the revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamene'i has repeatedly said what our policy is. He explicitly said that during the Friday-prayer sermons which he delivered recently. He has enunciated our policy. Whatever we say is an analysis of those policies. The government, the Majlis and all the Iranian institutions and our friends abroad all pursue the same policy.

Well, during all those stages, the Palestinian jihad was proceeding as well. To be honest, the Palestinians never remained completely silent. They had their ups and downs. However, they never became silent. For a while, armed struggle intensified. However, they had to intervene. Their intervention took place through the pressure that was exerted on those who were involved in the armed struggle. It raised the issue of Camp David through puppet governments. It took up 20 years of the Palestinians' time.

It is not the case that the jihad has completely subsided. However, there have also created false hopes along with the people's rather quiet jihad. In the end, it resulted in the formation of the so-called national authority. They made false promises which included only 6,000 km of the 28,000 km of the Palestinian territory. In this way, they could form a small and insignificant government here. However, it seems that that era is coming to an end.

At this stage the Palestinians waited. They fell silent and waited. They formed political parties. Some of them took up arms but they were not strong. The final stage of compromise was held at Camp David II, in New York or Washington in America. At that stage Arafat who had been optimistic about the efforts of the American brokers lost hope. When he came to Iran he said President Clinton's comments at the meeting was a bomb which destroyed the negotiations, the statements of the American president - expressed after several days of intense negotiations - was merely a different version of the Israeli demands, and the meeting broke up. Arafat had written it all down. He read them for me from his notebook.

In the meantime the intifadah began and found a new climax. The Palestinians came to the conclusion that negotiations, be they in Madrid, Camp David, Oslo or any other place, will succeed, only if it is accompanied by their own efforts, selflessness and revolutionary actions. This was the background to the second Intifadah. It began when the Lebanese, with their spirited actions, forced the Israelis, for the first time, to flee in disgrace. This was a good and inspiring lesson. The Palestinian struggle lives on and the Intifadah, the current climax of the Palestinian struggle, is the result of the misleading and dishonest actions of the Western powers. We are witnessing this in the world today. The situation has deep roots. This is the tenth point that I wanted to make.

Now is the Palestinian revolution, the current Intifadah, going to weaken in the future? Some people may think that the Palestinians are going to get tired, that a small community is not going to be able to stand against all this power, that the feebleness and incapability of the Islamic world and its governments will undermine their resolve. But this judgement is wrong.

For one thing the Palestinian jihad has been the source of inspiration to many other Islamic movements throughout the world. It was a source of inspiration to us in Iran. It has been a source of inspiration to Lebanon, Syria, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Central Asia, Chechnya, African countries, Sudan. They feel obliged to support this jihad. Furthermore, their own advancement has similar positive effects on the Palestinian movement . These countries are not going to forget their source of inspiration. They will keeping an eye on the situation. The Palestinian movement will survive. There may be ups and downs. There many be small ups and downs in view of the global situation. But this is not going to die because it is rooted in the homelessness of five million people, in the innocence of eight million people, in the innocent blood of hundreds of thousands of martyrs whose call is still being heard, in the fallen weapons that call to be taken up, in the feelings of innocence and justice, and more than anything, in the path of martyrdom and happiness and the path of the Almighty. Therefore, you cannot say that the Palestinian movement will die. There may be ups or downs but it will survive. And it will undoubtedly end with the liberation of Palestine. public chants of support

The huge wave of Islamic jihad of Palestine subsided with the start of the compromise negotiations. Then, when the talks reached a deadlock, the Palestinian intifadah intensified once again, and today, we face a new situation. The important issue today is very important and deserves a mention.

This is my 11th point. It seems that global arrogance has planned four different moves to stop and quell the present intifadah, or at least rid itself of its grave consequences. The first one concerns propaganda. You can see the great propaganda campaign which is in progress in the world today with the aim of introducing them the Palestinians as terrorists, and Israel as the side that is defending itself. You need someone as foolhardy as Molla Nasreddin legendary witty folk figure to believe this. Otherwise, who can believe that Israel, with all its helicopters, F-16 aircraft, tanks and rockets - which it uses to assassinate people - is the side that it is engaged in self-defence, but a selfless and devoted human being, who sees no other option but to attach a bomb to himself and blow

himself to pieces in some place, is the terrorist element? If one day, the world reaches such a conclusion and offers such a judgment, then we must consider humanity as dead and buried, and we must start to believe that humans are the same as, or even worse than, animals. Of course, already there are people who act in such a way, but at the same time, claim to champion the cause of human rights.

In my opinion, such a belief is not going to find any place among the righteous-seeking and struggling people. Yet, this kind of propaganda exists in the world today.

The second method they have chosen is violence. You can see how it Israel is perpetrating violence. When one person is killed inside the Israeli territory, a squadron of helicopters begin to fire indiscriminately at the people. You can see for yourselves how far violence has gone. Is this kind of violence a proportionate and appropriate response? Of course, it must be acknowledged that both these methods - that is to say propaganda and violence - have had some effect, but in general, they just aggravate an already bad situation. The people who have no choice but to resort to martyrdom-seeking operations are not going to frightened of this violence. After all, they have nothing to lose. How is a person going to lose anything when he believes that by blowing himself up, one minute he is on this material world and the next moment he is going to be transferred to the divine paradise on the wings of divine angels, and once there, he will sit next to the Prophet and the disciples of God, in a reception given in the honour of divine martyrs?

This is really like a duck trying to threaten the river, or the sea. There is no way that a fish can live without the water of the sea.

As I said earlier, the conditions in Palestine are creating this type of people. These acts of violence by Israel may silence some uncertain or opportunist elements, but as a rule, they will strengthen the resolve of others. It is because of this that I want to tell global arrogance to be on guard. It is here that the cost of exerting pressure on the people of Palestine and lending support to Israel can be very high for global arrogance. If one day, these tired, faithful and martyrdom-loving people decide to deliver blows to the vital interests of arrogance no matter where they are, then they can do this. They the Americans may be able to stop half of these operations, or even two-thirds of them, but some will still be carried out, and when they do, the costs will be huge. The events in New York can be a lesson for the Americans, particularly today, when, due to their aggressive moves and their mistakes, they have paved the way and made it possible for some groups to be armed with non-conventional weapons. Crowd chants: Death to America

Therefore, as a person who has good knowledge of history, particularly the history of popular movements, I would like to admonish the Westerners not allow to matters to go this far. They should not feel happy about events such as attacks by helicopters, or other acts of violence by Israel . This is very dangerous, and we really do not want to see the world security to be disrupted, and we do not want to see the present insecurity - which has cost the world more than 1,000bn dollars and has paralysed the world in many areas, including in Israel itself. The West should not allow the world to suffer from such

conditions. They should not allow a situation of confrontation and antagonism between the devoted, martyrdom-seeking forces, and the centres of arrogant power, in the form of the Third World War. This is the worst possible scenario, if arrogance continues with its present ways.

The other path that they have chosen is the path of deceit and false promises. America announces that it supports an independent Palestinian state, with Bayt al-Maqdis as its capital. However, we see that things are different in practice. Europe says the same thing, and Mitchell puts forward a plan. Naturally, such plans have short-term effects for a month or two. Nonetheless, after a while, it seems the people who made these promises start to regret their statements, while, at the same time, those who had believed these promises also start to regret their decision. These plans are not going to produce much. Their last plan involves the use of the so-called Palestinian self-rule authority. This is very bitter indeed. They provide the self-rule authority with a list of names, and ask them to arrest and hand over to Israel for example 200 people on the list. God forbid if the leaders of the self-rule authority fall for this, although they already have done to some extent. They the Israelis are not going to be happy with just an arrest. They are after more.

The worst things that can happen is division and fighting among themselves. All those who have been engaged in jihad for the past 50 years will destroy all their background with one wrong action. We do not want this bitter incident to occur in the history of the Palestinian struggle. However, it is possible for such a thing to happen. I think a few days ago, the Israelis announced that they had complete confidence in Arafat and his intention to establish security. You have witnessed that Israel and America emphasize that there should be complete calm for one week before serious negotiations can begin. They think that this one week is enough and after that it will be difficult to revitalize it the intifadah . During this week other decisions will be made. The self-rule government should not give in to this and think that it will achieve its objectives in this way. In America, he Arafat saw and heard the final words of Mr Clinton and he noted them in his old note book. He knows what can happen. As a result, God willing, the leaders of the self-rule government will not be deceived by this big trickery.

Another solution that they are hopeful about, is to tire the mojahedin and to propagate, what they used to always say to us in Iran, that there is no use in these actions, and they are like trying to achieve the impossible; they said why should these valuable human beings be destroyed like this. These are not in line with Islamic and Koranic logic. These who are in the arena are Muslims.

The Koran says that it is not such that your enemy should not be harmed... In a serious and true jihad, if you suffer, your enemy will also suffer. It addition, it says: you have some hopes that are far beyond their reach. With this suffering, you will reach absolute prosperity and with their suffering, they will plunge into hell; these are not equal. You rely on justice and God, and they are on the edge of an abyss of fire preceding sentence in Arabic and these two are not the same.

You, who believe yourselves to be intelligent people and diplomats, shouldn't say that why are these Palestinian children are being lost like this. These blows are very fatal. You are destroying the enemy from within. A nation which does not have atomic and chemical weapons and F-16s, has discovered something stronger than F-16s which it has pursued. You have left them no option. You have shut off everywhere to them . You have placed them there through your extermination methods . As a result, it seems that these methods which the imperialists are using, will lead to no where. These were some eight or nine points which I have made and not kept count of . You yourself should count them.

See what arrogance Israel is demonstrating in this regard. The conference of the Islamic countries' foreign ministers in Qatar was on the basis of an invitation by Arafat and everyone was Arafat's guest. Israel arrogantly said that Arafat has no right to leave Palestine and even went further and said he shouldn't leave Ramallah. Today, they are saying he has no right to leave his home. Well, this is a self-rule government. He is a weak designated against elected mayor without any authority. What government and establishment is this? What have you pinned your hopes on? Why have you wasted the Palestinian nations' time for 20 years. Today some advise the youth and the women who have recently joined the masses of martyrdom-seeking individuals, to protect and preserve themselves for some other time. I want to mention two other important issues in another part of my speech .

Now that the situation has become a bit desperate, the Europeans, who during the past few months pursued a different approach to that of America and Israel and had made the Islamic world a little hopeful, have changed their stance.

They are openly saying that Hamas and Islamic Jihad in Palestine are terrorist organizations. They are so shameless that they ask Islamic countries to treat these groups as if they were terrorists, to close down their accounts, to close their offices, to put their members on trial. To be so obedient is a source of shame for European governments which see themselves as being equal to America. How can they explain this injustice to their own nations and freedom-loving people? Is this fair judgement? There are five million Palestinian refugees, their families live on UN handouts in camps and shanty towns. Their groves, homes, farms and workshops inside Palestinian territories are being taken over by rich Zionists. They are only defending themselves and you call them terrorists. It is shameful. You have to be truly shameless. What sort of people pronounce these things and vote for these things in their countries? Let the world see the truth. Let the freedom-loving people of the world see the truth. Let them see that those who call themselves the leaders of the free world and who claim to be defending human rights are, in fact, opposed to human rights. They are weak and inferior. There is no rationale for their actions . Their helicopters openly terrorize people on the streets. They, and not the Palestinian Authority, control the airspace. The helicopters come down and target taxi passengers after identifying them. This is what terrorists do. Are they defending helpless people? If this is their rationale then the actions of ordinary terrorists are truly more honourable than this form of freedom seeking encouraged by the West ? One day the world will judge.

The second issue concerns America itself. In Afghanistan, the Americans - according to their own thinking, according to their own analysis - achieved a swift victory through the power of bombardment. Of course, it seems to be the case, but they attach very little value to the main principle and they think that the role played by the Afghan nation, the United Front and the mojahed forces. That is at least what they pretend. That is what they are displaying to the world, even if they do not truly think so. They are trying to exhibit to the world that America has found a way for fighting its opponents. The bombings, on the one hand, and the use of domestic Afghan forces, as far as they do whatever America tells them. But, such calculations about Afghanistan cannot work in other places. You know that the forces which forced the Taleban to withdraw were also involved fighting, their problem was that wherever they were about to advance, Pakistani aircraft would hit their positions in support of the Taleban. And, wherever the Taleban had any shortcoming, the systematic army of Pakistan would intervene voluntarily. Now, the reverse is happening. Now, America is attacking the Taleban instead of the United Front which Pakistan was attacking . America also tied the hands of Pakistan so that it does not interfere from the other side. Yes, that role was indeed played by America, we accept that much. But, if America intends to compare this with other situations and use this process as a model and tested method for its future policies - which seems quite likely at the moment, because such assumptions exist in the While House and the American parliament - that would create another tragedy for mankind and world security, and it will very soon draw the attention of the Americans to the fact that they have made a strategic mistake. That is not a simple task.

The people of Afghanistan were in fact long tired of war, of clashes and of the selfishness of their domestic leaders and many other things. The way was already paved. Even if it was not America, any other powerful country, if it had become involved, could have done this and could have organized such a task. Of course, the future of this is very difficult to predict , because neither America has the capacity, acceptability or popularity among the people, nor there is any trust for it America . Others will not accept this either. We should all work together for the future of Afghanistan so that the people of Afghanistan do not fall into the trap of war, and so that their security, work and reconstruction of their country could get under way. And, if America wishes to show good will, it could also support and help. They the Americans should not think of turning that place Afghanistan into a military base, because the consequences of that can already be envisaged. It will result in dealing blows and receiving blows, it will have ups and downs; but, ultimately, nations cannot accept captivity.

You see that despite this massive deployment of forces the Jews in Palestine are faced with such circumstances. Fifty years have passed and it will be the same in 100 years. The Crusades lasted nearly 200 years and they ended like that. It's the same now. At the end, nations will rise and resist. Amidst this, some will secure their immediate interests, and many will experience the loss.

On the whole, it seems today, the world situation and our region, is in need, on the one hand, of the alertness of nations and governments, and on the other, the realism and fairness of the arrogant powers who want to revitalize the colonial era by deploying

troops, and occupying the previously abandoned military bases and securing a presence in the region. There is the hope that, God willing, this trend will secure the interest of justice and righteousness...

United Nations A/56/791–S/2002/111

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
23 January 2002

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session
Agenda items 41 and 42

Question of Palestine

The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

Letter dated 23 January 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a statement made on 23 January 2002 by the cabinet ministers of the State of Qatar condemning and denouncing Israel's violent attacks against the Palestinian people inside the occupied territory (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 41 and 42, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nassir Abdulaziz **Al-Nasser**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

02-22841 (E) 240102 240102

Annex to the letter dated 23 January 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

The Council of Ministers has voiced its condemnation of Israel's savage outrages and arbitrary actions against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, which are in flagrant violation of international covenants and conventions. The Council has called upon the entire international community to meet all of its responsibilities with regard to this situation; to take action to protect the Palestinian people and ensure the removal of the blockade imposed on it; to provide support to the Palestinian National Authority; to halt the violence and brutality that is obstructing the peace process and heightening tension; and to strive for the resumption of negotiations between the two sides in the hope of achieving a just peace in the region.